

When Fates Collide

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Summary: When a curious ZIM comes to Ponyville through a self-made portal machine, he never realized it'd be so complicated to get to a helpful dimension. He creates a crack in reality letting characters from My Little Pony, Avatar: The Last Airbender, Danny Phantom, Gravity Falls, Legends of the Hidden Temple, How To Train Your Dragon, Hunger Games, Fairly Odd Parents, and Star Wars meet!

1. My Little Portal

Everyone seems to assume that not everything belongs in existence, and that there can be only one world. But what if, there are infinite worlds; you just have to open your mind to discover them?

"Hey Applejack," Twilight called over her shoulder.

"What is it Sugar Cube?" Applejack answered as she bucked apples from one of the many trees at Sweet Apple Acres

"Do you need me to help run any baskets to the barn yet?" Twilight answered.

The whole pony gang was helping Applejack out with her apple bucking for the 3rd year in a row.

"Oh, I would love to help Applejack, but all these trees seem so, unclean!" Rarity said with a disgusted look on her face. "Is there anything else that perhaps I could do for you?"

"Uh yeah Rarity, could you start sorting the apples at the barn would yah?" Applejack replied. "Oh and Twilight, here," Applejack nudged a full barrel toward Twilight. "You can go with Rarity to the barn,"

Twilight smiled, "Glad we could help AJ!" Twilight then winked, as she and Rarity headed off to the barn.

"Yeah Applejack," Pinkie Pie said. "I love making all the delicious apples come down from the trees!" She bounced into a tree, and took a big bite of the biggest apple. "MMMMM! This is so yummy!" She said with a mouth full of apple. "And Fun!" She cheered, then jumped out of the tree and bounced out of sight.

Applejack chuckled to herself, "Pinkie Pie!" She looked around and smiled a tired smile. "Another successful apple bucking season," "Whoowee, it's sure dandy to have my friends,"

Suddenly, a weird glow started emitting from one of the nearby trees.

"What in the hay seed!" Applejack started.

The glow kept getting brighter and brighter. Applejack started to squint, and tried to see what was happening, while the light just got bigger and bigger, and an intense wind blew in her face. She held on to her hat, and shut her eyes. Fluttershy flew down from a nearby cloud to see what was happening. Surprised of the strong power, she shut her eyes and tried not to be blown away as well. Rainbow Dash flew down to check on them too and also got caught into the vortex. The vortex had all of them pushing hard to avoid being sucked in.

"Applejack, what is this?!" Rainbow Dash demanded.

"I have no idea!" Applejack cried.

A mysterious voice started to sound like it was coming through

"Hey! look! .worked! portal! .Earth! .knees! ..haha! aaa! haaaa! aaa," The mysterious voice said, though almost nothing got through.

The voice started to become clearer, and the wind started to go away. The brightness slowly faded, and Applejack, Rainbow Dash, and Fluttershy were all left staring in awe at some kind of weird picture suspended in the middle of Sweet Apple Acres.

A mysterious green little thing came onto the picture, and said,

"It works G.I.R.! Look! An alternate reality! Soon, the humans and their KNEES, will bow down to me! ZIIIIIM! MWAHAHAHA! AHFFF!" Just then _ZIM_ just took his first look at the three extremely confused ponies. His smile and cackle quickly faded away, leaving only a face of disgust. "WHAT KIND OF SICK TWISTED REALITY IS THIS?! I would be eaten ALIVE by those monsters!" He cried, with a face filled with horror. "SHUT IT OFF! SHUT IT OFF! DON'T LET YOUR BRAIN MEAT BE SUCKED BY THEM G.I.R.!" Then, he ran out of view. A small little robot giggled, then climbed out of the picture and stuck his tongue at the three. Then he got up and started to dance.

"Dooody! DOO! DOODY DOODY DOOO!" The little robot sang, totally off key. GIR then started to bang his little head on the ground.

"G.I.R.? What are you! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" The small green thing

cowered behind a strange looking piece of equipment.

"I founds me a cowâ€¦" GIR slowly marveled.

"Eh? Those aren't cows, GIR," ZIM said, still cowering around the corner. His voice wavered, but was getting more confident.

"What are you guys?" Rainbow Dash asked the strange visitors, as GIR ran up to her, and licked her hoof. "Hey! Cut that out!"

"Looks like some kind of portalâ€¦" Applejack commented.

The small green thing stood up strait, and came back up to the portal's view.

"Are you wielding any sort of super weapons?" He asked.

"Beg your pardon Mr. Zum," Applejack started, "But what in the berry bush is a super weapon?"

"Well! I guess you're not a threat then. I AM ZIM! Irken Zim, and have come to explore this dimension to find ways to, uh, make my Earthâ€¦. Mine." The Irken said as he now stood before them with no more fear. He then climbed through the floating portal and scanned the area of Sweet Apple Acres.

"So you're, like, an alien?" Rainbow Dash asked out.

"Sure, whatever," ZIM said, obviously lost deep in thought.

Rainbow Dash leaned in to Fluttershy, "Are you having this dream too?"

Fluttershy looked back at Rainbow Dash, with fear buried in her eyes. "I don't think this is a dreamâ€¦" She whimpered back in a barely audible voice. Applejack looked at both Fluttershy and Rainbow Dash with a nervous look on her face. Then they looked over at ZIM, and saw him placing a little gadget on the ground, and fiddling with it.

"He ain't normal," Applejack whispered to her pony friends. Suddenly Applejack let out a scream "Aaaah! What was that?!"

"What was WHAT?" Rainbow Dash asked.

"Somethin' poked meâ€¦"

"I POKED DA COW!" GIR screamed, popping up from behind Applejack. Then, he ran in circles around them.

"Few. That little feller seems in need of a tune-up," Applejack commented, then slowly started backing away.

"C'mon guys, this is like totally awesome!" Rainbow Dash said then trotted a bit closer to the alien.

"This seems to be some kind of alternate dimensionâ€¦" ZIM said as he kept fiddling with a small hand-held device. "What do you call this placeâ€¦?" He demanded.

"This is Ponyville," Rainbow Dash started, "Over this way!" Rainbow Dash flew far out. "Is the way to Canterlot!" She shouted from a distance away. She sped back to them. "That way is the Crystal Empire, Ponymsylvania!" She gestured to two other directions, "And this all, is Equestria!" Then she smiled pretty wide. "Anyone wanna try topping that explanation?"

ZIM looked around for a second, then made a bit of a pouty face and crossed his arms. "This place is uglier than Dib's head!" He announced. "GIR! Back to the PORTAL!" He commanded.

"Awww! I wanna play with da cow s'more!" GIR complained.

"No GIR, you can play with the cows later, right now must the mission COMMENCE!" He said, shaking his little fist.

"Not so fast!" Twilight's voice sounded in the distance. She warped herself to them. "Who are you? In the name of Celestia, I have the full right to know!" She said, pointing her hoof at the trespasser.

"Eh? I listen to NOBODY but my tallest!" ZIM said, as he continued to walk toward the portal.

Twilight warped herself in front of ZIM again. "Just give me an answer!" She said a little louder. Her pony friends could tell she was starting to burst.

"Move aside, cow beast! You are of little use to ZIM!" The alien cried at the pony as he shoved her away. Twilight flinched. She looked back at the portal, and started to wonder about this whole occurrence. Could it really be possible that Equestria was only one of many worlds?

Twilight took a deep sigh and said, "Fine, return to your world. They aren't meant to collide anyway!" She slightly shook her head.

"Much better BEAST, you best be listening to ZIM!" The alien said as he climbed back into his dimension. Twilight let out a low growl. She could barely tolerate how he was acting, and when she had so many questions too! It was the chance of a lifetime.

"Come GIR! We must continue!" ZIM cried, as he watched his little robot run back to the portal. "Now give ZIM the remote!" ZIM said, not wanting GIR to hold up the plans any longer. He was handed a remote, but it was completely drenched. "Eeewwww, did you put it in your mouth AGAIN?!" ZIM asked, as if it had happened on more than one occasion. GIR just giggled in response, then ran off somewhere out of view to the ponies. He saluted, pressed a button, and the picture went from fizzling to completely gone. Twilight let out a breath that she didn't realize she was holding.

"The Princess will never believe this letter!" She mumbled.

"That was pretty cool..." Rainbow Dash commented, with a slight grin on her face. Fluttershy's slight peep showed she disagreed.

"I don't know what that was, but I didn't like it!" Applejack snorted.

Only a minute later, the wind blew again, and a spot in time was ripped, as the portal reappeared. The alien, this time hopped out with no hesitation.

He looked at them with a desperate look, "ZIM requiresâ€|someâ€|help,"

2. The Irken Rhyme

****A/N:** Yay! Another Chapter Posted! I feel so accomplished today. Oh and by the way, Twilight thought that Cadence deserved to be titled "Princess Demandy Pants" but I think we all know that title belongs to ZIM. Hope you enjoy and don't forget to review! :D**

"Help?!" Twilight cried out. "You have the worst manners in all of Equestria, and you want us to HELP!?"

"I don't exactly LIKE this idea, but my remote REFUSES to come to any other dimension's coordinates, and I don't want this to be my limits! ZIM needs to GET to SOMEWHERE!" The alien cried at them, then he sighed, "If you help me, I won't come back here,"

"Yeah, but you don't like it here anyways," Applejack pointed out.

"That may be TRUE, but ZIM SHALL SPARE your SICK dimension, OF COWS!" He said, as he started walking down the road, his hands sticking straight up in the air.

"Okay, fine!" We will help you get to some kind of other dimension from here if,"

"YES!" ZIM shouted. Which made Twilight grumble.

"As I was saying," Twilight continued, "We'll help you if you promise, not to come back okay?"

"ZIM agrees," The little alien said, looking up at the ponies with big red eyes.

"So, what exactly is our problem here?" Rainbow Dash asked.

ZIM sighed, "The only reachable dimension from my universe is yours. I want so badly to reach some other place, you see, I am QUITEâ€|curious? Yes, curious. I just can't figure this out. Do you know of anyone who could, help me get into the next, dimension?"

The ponies looked at each other, and then thought of one name, "Zecora," they stated at the same time.

"Ooooh," ZIM said, scratching his head, "I like the nameâ€|" "GIR! Stay in that dimension," ZIM commanded his robot, waiting at the portal, "I'm going to meet with, Zecora!"

"Brought to me, an alien here, why have you done this, my pony dear?" Zecora asked as the ponies and ZIM entered Zecora's hut.

"We need your help Zecora, this ZIM guy wants to get to another

alternate dimension, but the only dimension that his remote will bring him to is here!" Twilight said with worry on her face.

Zecora scanned all of the ponies' faces, where there was a mixture of fear and hope. "Although I cannot see what you saw through your eyes, I will tell you that traveling through dimensions is not wise! It can cause things that you would never want to appear, even though now, this must be hard for you to hear," Zecora said, looking at all of them with a gentle but determined face.

"ZIM shall not leave until ZIM gets what he WANTS!" The little green alien cried.

"Please Zecora, it's just to squeeze him by," Applejack pleaded.

"Yeah, as cool as this is, he doesn't seem like he belongs in Ponyville!" Rainbow Dash admitted.

"Fine, I will see what I have in my books, they aren't filled with spells, but we should at least take some looks," Zecora said.

After several minutes of flipping through books, Fluttershy found something.

"Um, excuse me," Fluttershy started, trying to get Zecora's attention. Unfortunately, she was deep in conversation with Twilight, as they struggled to find something. "Pinkie Pie, would you please?" She tried again, only failing to get a different pony's attention. "I really think this would help!" She commented to Applejack, only to go unheard again.

"QUIET!" She finally shouted, as everyone stopped what they were doing, and looked up at her. "Oh, uh, please?" She then finished nicely. "I found this book," She said, giving it to Zecora.

"Ah this will do just the trick! I've made this potion before, first I will need a stick," She started, "Then, I will need, that vial over there! That purple flower, and the orange plant on the chair,"

Soon the ponies crafted a beautiful mix, and with Twilight's magic, it was ready to blow away the boundaries of the remote. They lightly sprinkled it over the remote, and it started to glow.

"Your remote to dimensions, will now work for you, just make sure, my friend, you know what you're getting into!" Zecora said, as final words to ZIM. They walked a few feet out, and then stopped.

"Just make sure ya'know what you are doin'" Applejack warned.

"ZIM always knows," The alien simply replied, while all the ponies looked slightly offended at the rude green extraterrestrial.

"I'm just glad it's over," Twilight said with a sigh of relief. The other ponies nodded in agreement.

"Now to see if this JUNK works," ZIM said.

"Didn't you build it yourself?" Rainbow Dash pointed out. "So technically, you're calling your creation!"

"BE QUIET!" ZIM interrupted. He fiddled with the remote for one more minute, then he gave the slightest jerk, and the thing whirred to life.

"Everypony step back, we aren't sure what this will do." Twilight warned her friends. ZIM stayed put, smiling in front of the brightening hole in time being created, while all the ponies backed up. Well, except for one. Pinkie Pie's eyes were widening, and so was her grin. She was mesmerized by the spectacular light that was being given off by the mixture of the potion, and ZIM's remote. Suddenly the light pulsed brighter, and brighter, until the blazing light, temporarily blinded all of the ponies that backed away. When the light cleared, the remote was burnt to pieces, and the powder had evaporated. As for Pinkie and ZIM, they were nowhere to be seen.

"Oh my gosh!" Twilight cried.

"Awww man!" Rainbow Dash said.

"Eeep," Said Fluttershy.

Applejack looked at the spot where her friend had been only a few seconds ago, sighed and said, "Oh Butternut,"

3. Pinkie Makes Some Friends

A/N: Finally! More characters! None of them are OC's so I hope I depicted the characters to be as awesome as they are in all of the different series. I hope you like another new chapter, and I hope you review! :D

"And THAT's why they're called Unipigs," Aang stated to his friends with a proud look on her face.

"That's _great_ Aang," Katara said, managing to put on a smile.

"I never needed to know that," Sokka said with wide eyes.

"I think that sounds awesome!" Toph exclaimed.

"Well I thinkâ€|" Zuko started, but he was cut off by a strong light that suddenly flashed.

"What did you do?!" Sokka said to Zuko.

"I didn't do anything!" He said, as he shielded his eyes from the growing bright light.

"Well someone definitely did something! What is that?!" Sokka cried.

The glow kept getting brighter and brighter, and Aang and his friends were blown away in surprise.

"What's going on Twinkle Toes?" Toph asked, thinking the push of air was due to Aang.

"Something's forming!" Aang yelled, as he and the gang were tossed

from the high rocky area in the middle of woods that they were sitting. Aang airbended just in time to keep them from getting hurt from the fall. The whole gang had fell quite a way, and they looked up.

The glow started to fade "Did you guys see that?" Katara asked.

"No," Toph said, with an annoyed tone.

"Oh right, sorry," Katara whispered awkwardly.

"Should we go check it out?" Zuko said with a puzzled look on his face.

"I don't knowâ€¦ weird stuff always happens to usâ€¦" Sokka said.

"Sokka, weird stuff happens to everyone," Katara stated.

"Remember that guy with the corn in his mouth? Or the foamy mouth guy?! We found a BOY in an ICEBURG who happened to be the AVATAR!?" Sokka yelled, waving his hands wildly.

"Okay, okay!" Katara shouted, "I get your point Sokka, I can see why you'd think weird things happen to us," She said, looking down at him as she tried to climb back onto the top bolder. Aang grabbed Sokka by the hand, and airbended them back on, while Toph, shot Zuko and her up to the top.

"It feels like two people," Toph said, as they reached the top.

"It looks like some pretty weird people to me," Katara said.

"See?!" Sokka cried "Weird!"

"I get it Sokka!" Katara yelled at him.

Toph felt the ground, "They're alive," She announced. Katara leaned in to get a closer look. There was a girl, with pale skin, crazy pink hair, and a dress that looked like it was made out of streamers. There was also, a kid, or at least, it looked like a kidâ€¦ but he had GREEN skin, and a long purple dress, andâ€¦ antennae?

"Okay, I've seen enough," Sokka said, as he started back down the rocky hill.

"We can't just leave them," Zuko finally piped in.

"What if they are hurt Sokka?!" Katara said with worry on her face.

"Well, there's just not that much we can do until they wake up," Sokka said in a more serious quieter voice.

"They don't look that hurt," Aang said, as he examined them closer.

"Mmmmâ€¦" The girl with the pink hair mumbled. Then her blue eyes slowly opened. "Huh?" She said, as she rubbed her eyes, then she

looked down at her hands. Her eyes widened, and so did her grin. She jumped up, "Oh my gosh! Fingers, toes, no tail, tiny nose! I'm a human again!" She screamed with a smile on her face. Her eyes lit up, and she dug into her dress' pocket, and pulled out a small little popper. She pulled the string and confetti went everywhere. She hugged Zuko, and then looked at him, "I'm human!" She said to him with an excited tone. Zuko just blushed awkwardly and stared, slowly inching away. Suddenly, the other arrival started to stir. The pink haired girl ignored this and just started to dance. "Hi guys," Aang was about to ask her a question when the green kid got up, rubbed his head, and looked around.

"Where are we this time?" ZIM said, scanning the area. His eyes widened when he noticed the group staring at him. Then he looked over at Pinkie Pie's dancing, and his eyes widened even more, but slightly filled with fear. He grabbed the girl that he recognized as Pinkie Pie. "Excuse us, we're just your normal non-alien travelers, good day," ZIM tried to convince. Then he dragged Pinkie Pie down to the bottom of the rocky hill. "What are you doing?!" He yelled at her with an upset look on his face.

"What do you mean?" Pinkie asked, still smiling, and then she waved at the group who were still staring at them from the top of the hill.

"You weren't supposed to come here WITH me!" ZIM cried, throwing his hands up in the air. "You're almost as bad as GIR when it comes to listening to directions," He snarled.

"I'm sorry ZIM, but, wouldn't you get lonely if you didn't have any friends with you?" Pinkie asked trying to cheer him up.

"ZIM doesn't need friends," He said, turning away from her.

"But I do," Pinkie said with a more serious tone. "And, I think you could be a really great friend," She said smiling at him. ZIM looked up at the girl. Who knows? Maybe she'd come in handy later, even though it wasn't a part of the original plan—it might benefit to have more members.

"Fine, ZIM shall be you're friend, just, keep your distance, and promise me you don't know where I live—" ZIM said with a shudder, a sudden flash of ZIM's last attempt at making a friend passed his mind.

"Alright, I promise," Pinkie said. Then she looked up expecting to see the group still standing there. She didn't see them; instead she noticed they were walking down hill toward them! ZIM noticed too, and took out a ray gun from his side pocket, and his eyes filled with focus. He pointed it at them, but Pinkie lightly touched his hand and ZIM allowed it to be put back in his pocket. He looked up at her, and she shook her head at him. He sighed, as he stared forward and waited for them to come close. He noticed that they all had their hand pointed at him and Pinkie Pie. Pinkie smiled and gave a small wave to them again. "Hiya!" She greeted.

He gulped and said, "Hello, friends,"

****A/N:** This chapter took a long time to write. This seems to be ironic, because it's actually pretty short. I know I haven't posted in a while, so I feel sorry that this is a shorter one! But I've been working further, and hopefully it will be up soon! You get to know the gang from Avatar a bit more in this chapter, so I hope you enjoy! And don't forget to review so I can hear your thoughts! I love to include that kind of stuff. Enjoy!**

Aang and his friends exchanged looks, and then walked over to where ZIM and Pinkie were standing.

"What were you guys doing up there, and how'd you do that?" Aang asked, as he stared Pinkie in the eyes.

"Oh, we just came through a portal and ended up here!" She said with a smile. Sokka raised his eyebrows.

"A portal? Really? What if it was some kind of attack?" he asked his groupies as he accusingly pointed his boomerang at Pinkie. Aang scanned them, trying to figure the odd pair out. His eyes stopped on ZIM's antennae.

"What are you?" Katara motioned to ZIM, taking Aang's question.

"Not a human stink beast," he said, as he crossed his arms.

"I think he's talking about you Sokka," Toph said with a smirk.

"I do not smell!" Sokka sniffed the air and made a sour face.

"Okay! Okay!" Aang shouted then took a breath, "Please explain what you are, who you are, and how you got here,"

"We don't have to tell you_ worms _anything!" ZIM yelled. The opposing group extended their arms like they were ready to fight. "What are they doing?" ZIM whispered to Pinkie, with a look on his face.

"I have no idea," She said with a smile, "But it's no problem to explain, if that's what you want," She looked at Aang and his friends.

"Wwwwwwwwwweeeeeeeeeelllllllllllllllllllll," Pinkie said with a big breath, "It's a bit of a doozy, but it's worth telling," ZIM looked at Pinkie mouthing the word "no". Pinkie rolled her eyes and gave an encouraging smile. "I can do this," she said looking ZIM in the eyes. ZIM gave a sigh.

"FINE!" he yelled.

"Okee dokee!" She turned back to Aang and the others. "Let's sit down," she said as she pointed at the clearing.

"I'll start a fire," Zuko said with a slight smile.

Once the fire started to seriously burn, everyone took a place around it and Pinkie started to explain their story.

"ZIM came to my dimension looking for some help for HIS dimension,

but I guess there was nothing in MINE that would work. Which I totally don't understand because all of my pony friends are totally helpful, and Equestria is so cool! But then, he realized that the only dimension he could reach from his was mine! Wow, can you believe that? That's crazy! Out of all the places, he could only reach Equestria! It's a crazy coincidence!" She cradled her face in awe. "After that, we took ZIM to the only one who could help him get to a different dimension, and her name is Zecora! She's a zebra! And she used some awesome enchantress magic and suddenly BOOM! The remote is flashing and turns into a portal, and then we're sucked in! Then we came out up there," Pinkie said with a big smile on her face. It was returned with some really skeptical looks. "What? It's true!" She announced. Toph adjusted her feet.

"Guys, I'm feeling the vibrations, andâ€¦ she's not lying. Everything she's said so far is true," Toph turned toward Pinkie, "That's really cool," She said smiling. Pinkie smiled but then gave a worried look. "Why won't she look me in the eyes?" she whispered to Sokka.

"Toph is blind," he whispered back, and seeing Pinkie gasp he added, "She sees with earthbending though, so she can see you in a way."

"What's earthbending?" Pinkie asked out loud.

"You don't have bending in your dimension?" Katara asked with wide eyes.

"No, I don't think so. What about you ZIM?" Pinkie turned to the unusually quiet alien.

"No, we DON'T have bending," he said turning away.

"In this dimension," Katara said, still not used to the idea of alternate dimensions, "We can control the different elements. Not everyone can and you can only control one,"

"Unless you're Twinkle Toes," Toph said, pointing at Aang as he blushed.

"What Toph MEANS is, Aang's the Avatar, which means he is the bridge between the spirit world and the real world. He can control all elements," Katara said with a slight smile as she looked at Aang.

"Wow! That's so cool!" Pinkie Pie said. "What are the elements?" Her expression was filled with wonder.

"Should we really be telling them all of this?" Sokka leaned in and asked Zuko.

"They seem fine," he said, looking over at Pinkie who had a big smile on her face. "You might want to change the subject though."

Sokka got up quickly. "Guys, I'm starving! Can we please go eat some meat or something?" Aang gave him a look. "And vegetarians can have salad," he said to satisfy his friend. Aang's look returned to normal.

"Sure, I'm up for food." Toph said. "I think there's a village

nearby." She pointed behind her.

"I'm in," Zuko agreed.

ZIM heard his squeedily spooch growl, just like a human's stomach would. He felt it growl again, signaling his hunger. He looked up at the others. He hated to trust his life in others, and this whole journey was seriously bringing him out of his comfort zone. He turned away. It growled again. He sighed and gave in.

"ZIM agrees to get food. But, I will not have the meats," He said narrowing his eyes.

Aang perked up. "You're a vegetarian?" He got a sparkle in his eye.

"I hate MEAT," ZIM shuddered.

"I guess that's close enough," Aang said with a shrug.

Pinkie jumped up from her sitting position. "What's meat?"

"You said you're from a dimension filled with ponies right?" Katara asked with a worried look.

"Yeah, why?" Pinkie said smiling.

"I don't think you want to know," she said, giving a quick look around at her group, making sure they didn't add anything.

"Okay?" Pinkie said confused, "Let's just go to this town," she said, trying to put on a convincing smile.

"Good idea," Aang said, as he turned and started walking. Anything to get off the topic of meat. Anything.

5. Bread n' Fruit

****A/N:** Good news and bad news my friends... the bad news is I thought I would be ready to post this a lot sooner. The good news is that it's by far the biggest chapter yet! I'd just like to thank you guys for commenting, favoring, and following my story. I mean, I must be doing something right! That's the best way for me to please the audience, so don't be afraid to give criticism or suggestions! I hope you are as excited about this story as I am, and be on the lookout for the next chapter hopefully coming soon!**

* * *

><p>The group walked for a while in the woods then finally saw the town coming up in a clearing.<p>

"You'd better stay here," Sokka said to ZIM and Pinkie. "You don't exactly have the right attire," he said gesturing to Pinkie's streamer dress, and the weird tunic that ZIM had on.

"But this dress is so cool!" Pinkie complained.

"Just stay here," Katara agreed. "The last thing we need is

attention." She gave them a stern look, and then lightly smiled. "I promise we'll be fast," and with that she and the group took off.

Pinkie sighed. "Why don't they want me out there? I really want to make some friends!" She peeked through the leaves, and watched all of the people walking by. Everyone was wearing red, just like Aang and all of his friends.

ZIM leaned back on a tree and crossed his arms. "Why would you WANT friends?" he asked with a scowl. "They're useless and annoying."

"Friends aren't useless. They can really help you when you're in a sticky situation, and you can always trust them to have your back!" Pinkie said with a confident smile.

"Friends smell REALLY bad," he told her with a serious look.

Pinkie's eyes widened. She really wondered what kind of place could have convinced ZIM that friendship was meaningless.

* * *

><p>Katara looked around for a good place to buy food. Their budget hadn't planned on two extra mouths to feed, and it was going to make an impact. She looked at Sokka.<p>

"See any good places?" she asked him.

"All of this stuff is way too spicy," he frowned, "but I guess it'll have to do if we're hungry."

"Sokka," Katara said in a hushed tone, "this might be our last chance of a village for a while. You're just going to have to get used to the food!"

Zuko casually walked up to them. "That market stall looks promising." He gestured with his head toward one with bread and fruit.

"Great!" Aang cheered quietly. "I think I'll head back into the woods, anyone else coming with me?"

"I will," Toph responded.

"I'll come too," Zuko said. He looked behind him, making sure nobody was watching. "C'mon, let's go,"

Aang, Zuko, and Toph started to walk back to where Pinkie and ZIM were hiding, while Katara and Sokka stayed behind to buy the items. Aang and his two friends walked to where they had entered from. "Toph, is anyone following us?" Zuko asked her.

"Nope," she noted with a quick shift of her feet.

"That's a relief," Aang said as they ducked into the woods.

Toph walked slowly making sure nobody was coming with every single step she took. Usually she wasn't so careful, but there had been too

many close calls to stroll around unworried anymore. When she and the others reached where ZIM and Pinkie were, Toph heard Zuko sigh.

"Something bugging you Zuko?" she asked with a smirk on her face.

"I'm just glad to be out of the crowds," Zuko answered and looked down.

"So!" Pinkie said, breaking the sour attitude in the air. "How was the food quest?" She gave a hopeful smile.

"It went fine. We found some bread and fruit," Aang stated, "and we still have some leftovers from a few days ago so we should be fine."

ZIM looked at Toph, Aang, and Zuko. "Where is it?" he asked with a frown.

"Oh, Katara and Sokka are buying the food right now," Aang answered.

"How long does it take to buy fruit and some bread?" Zuko said looking back at the direction they came from.

"Zuko, you're newer to the people in this group, so I'll let you in on a little secret. Sokka isn't good at food decisions, and Katara's a money saver," Toph announced with a blow of her bangs. "They might take a while," she said with a smile.

"Why don't we just sit here and wait?" Aang suggested pointing to some logs that would work as seats. Pinkie nodded with a smile, Toph plopped on a log, and ZIM just made a face.

"So," Toph started, "what's it like to be from a different world?"

"Well," Pinkie started.

"A DEEP subject!" ZIM interrupted, "She's just going to sugarcoat this THING you call home." Zuko, Aang, and Toph all made faces.

"What do you mean by that?" Zuko said with a frown.

"I MEAN! There's no technology! Everything is TREES! You have to WALK everywhere! And my antennae are covered in SAP!" ZIM screamed as he took his gloved hands and attempted to remove the sap from his head. When his hand got stuck mid-wipe, he looked at the group and just made an extremely annoyed face.

"Wow," Aang said. "It's hard to believe that you've got more than all of this!" He looked around with wide eyes.

"So much more!" ZIM said with almost a sad look on his face. "We'd probably be able to get back to our dimension if you had what we had." ZIM looked up at them.

"You know," Pinkie said as she cocked her head, "Equestria isn't so

different. We do have a few more things than here, but it makes sense you wouldn't have what we have, it's almost all run by magic!" she looked at Aang, "But what bothers me the most is the feel of here. I know that sounds silly, but it just feel more like you could be grabbed at any second and you're always being watched by ninja spies in the trees!" Pinkie wiggled her fingers and made a scary face.

"You lost me there," A familiar voice said behind the group. They looked up to see Katara and Sokka standing there with a medium sized bag of groceries. "Seriously," Sokka continued, "I'm confused!"

"We got quite a few quality items," Katara said with a small smile.

"That took long enough!" ZIM said as he tapped his foot on the ground impatiently. After a few seconds ZIM asked, "What are you WAITING for?! Aren't we going to EAT?"

"We're not at our camp," Toph explained. "We need to go back _Alien Boy_." She pointed back further into the woods where their site was. The group gave a quick look at each other, and then started to go toward the make-shift camp site.

ZIM chomped on his lip in anger. The nicknames reminded him of his rival Dib, which seriously made him mad. How many dimensions would he have to go through before he would stop being reminded so much of that disgusting beast?! Everyone from his world made him nauseated and angry, but this world was a very different case. ZIM looked around at the surrounding humans, which he found surprisingly less annoying. ZIM started to questionâ€¦ could he really be becoming allies withâ€¦ humans?

* * *

><p>Aang happily greeted their group's other members as they returned to the site.<p>

"Oh wow, good to see you too buddy!" Aang laughed as he hugged his giant flying bison.

"Seems like Appa missed us?" Katara said with a light smile.

"What about Momo?" Sokka pointed as the flying lemur landed on his head.

"Seems like they both did," Zuko commented.

"What is that thing?" Pinkie and ZIM asked at the same time. Althoughâ€¦ Pinkie's voice was filled with excitement, while ZIM just sounded disgusted.

"Appa's a flying bison, and also a really good friend," Aang said with a smile. The gentle giant licked Aang, and he just let out a laugh. "And Momo over there, he's a flying lemur," Aang pointed. Momo chattered at the mention of his name, and then climbed off Sokka's head and on to the ground.

"I'm pretty tired. What time is it?" Pinkie asked the group. She squinted at the setting sun.

"Looks like your princess is just bringing down the sun," Pinkie said with a smile. Sokka's eyes widened.

"What do you mean exactly?" Katara asked wondering the same thing her brother had considered.

"Oh yeah you don't need magic to control the weather, do you?" Pinkie said as she scratched her head. "Oh well!"

"We probably should start eating and getting ready to sleep for the night," Katara suggested, trying to get off this weird "magic" subject. Toph "looked" around with her feet, and then she stomped on the ground. With her earthbending, she created seven places to sit roughly in a circle, all around a little place that had popped up in the middle.

"Wow," Zuko commented. "Is that a fireplace?" he asked pointing to the middle of the seats.

"Yeah," Toph said as she plopped down on one of her make-shift seats.

Sokka and Aang just naturally started gathering sticks to use for a fire. As they piled them in, Katara asked, "Zuko, can you start the fire?"

"It's what I do," he answered as he let a small flame shoot from his hand into the pit. The twigs immediately lit. Pinkie and ZIM were both looking at the bending in surprise; it was very hard to take in.

* * *

><p>Pinkie sat close to the fire as she heard it crackle and pop; the glow was lighting up everyone's face in humorous shadows. The fire had really started to burn once they had thrown some bigger logs on it. She shoved some bread in her mouth. That, and the little bit of fruit, would be all she got for the night. Pinkie sighed. She felt a little homesick as she remembered the sweet treats of Ponyville, and all of her friends there. She forced a confident smile because she would make it back. She knew she would. She had friends to help her here, and everything would turn out okay. The smile faded. She hoped she would.<p>

"Hey Pinkie?" Katara said, breaking Pinkie out of her daze. Katara and her friends were gathered in a huddle, which Pinkie failed to even notice that it had formed in the first place.

"Yes?" Pinkie answered with a small smile. Katara's voice could be very calming.

"And ZIM? Katara asked, as she looked over to the alien who was fiddling around with some random wires he had found in his pockets.

"WHAT," he said as he looked up from his wire-ball.

Katara looked at her friends surrounding her, and they slowly moved back to their spots where they had been sitting before. Aang cleared

his throat, "We were going to ask you to become part of our groupâ€¦ y'knowâ€¦ if you can't get back?" he answered. His eyes were filled with sympathy.

Pinkie's eyes filled with tears. They really were her friends. "Of course," she answered trying to pull off a smile. The thought of never seeing her other friends was really painful. Pinkie shook the negative thoughts out of the way. It was her adventure, and it was going to be great. "Yes!" she said, with a real smile this time. "Yes, yes please!" Pinkie ran around the fire to hug Katara. She smiled as her head turned from all the different people around the fire, when her eyes stopped on ZIM. "What's your answer?" she asked as she took a step closer.

"Do I get to blow things up?" ZIM asked with a small hopeful smirk.

"As long as it's the bad guy, we could care less," Sokka said casually.

"CONGRADUALATIONS, you have been the first NOT annoying humans that have received my AMAZING services," he said with a stretching smile. The rest of the group smiled back at him. ZIM was amazed, he didn't need to strive high to impress these things, he just did what he did, and they met him where he was. That was interesting. Maybe he'd have to closely study them, to see how they work. He HAD created the dimensional remote to find help after all.

"Well I feel pretty honored, we're considered not annoying after all," Toph commented.

"Wow, that actually is pretty good for us," Sokka said as he looked at Katara. She gave a little gasp when she realized he was referring to her.

"I am not that annoying!" she defended. Sokka just gave a smirk that made Katara's face turn red. She took a deep breath, and started to ignore what he had said.

"Guys," Aang interrupted, "Youâ€¦ shouldn'tâ€¦ argueâ€¦" he said with barely any breath.

"Aang are you alright?" Zuko said, noticing Aang's short gasps.

"I'm f-fine," he said holding on to his stomach.

"But you don't look fine," Pinkie commented.

"I'm s-serious, Iâ€¦ it's nothing," Aang tried to say convincingly.

"Aang if something's wrong, you need to tell us," Katara said, as her attention was brought away from her argument with Sokka.

"Okay fi-fine, I don't feel r-right, okay?" he admitted, although he didn't want to worry everyone else. Aang started to look even more pale than usual.

"Are you sick?" Toph asked her friend. She frowned as she felt the ground to realize he was slightly shaking.

"No, itâ€|itâ€|" Aang tried to answer but his eyes and tattoo started glowing, and he started shivering violently. Even ZIM looked up with a worried look on his face. Whatever was happeningâ€| it wasn't right.

A horrid scream erupted from Aang's mouth. "AAAAAAAAAAAAH!" he cried, grasping his chest, tears forming in his glowing eyes.

"Aang!" Katara screamed, running to him. She and the others dove to his side and tried to help him. Katara tried to touch his shoulder, but her hand passed right through him. "Aang!?" she yelled with confusion and fear.

"Why are Aang's vibrations coming in like he's flickering?" Toph asked in a stressed tone. Aang's body flickered one last time, and with a bright light, he fully disappeared.

"What happened to Aang?" Pinkie asked worried.

"He...heâ€|" Zuko was stunned.

"He looked like he was going in to the Avatar state, butâ€| but that doesn't make any senseâ€|" Sokka said with shock.

* * *

><p>Aang's pain vanished instantly. He rubbed his eyes and looked up. Bright light was the first thing he saw, with a blurry image in front of him.<p>

"Aangâ€|" a familiar but powerful voice whispered. Aang had to blink a few times before he could see clearly. He looked up to see a known man dressed in red.

"Avatar Roku?" Aang squinted. "Whatâ€|" Aang looked around. He was in the spirit world. "What happened?" he asked the old Avatar.

"It seems that you have a great trouble to face, young Aang," Avatar Roku said in a calm voice.

"What do you mean?" Aang said as he sat up and brushed himself off. Then a thought occurred to him. "Why did it hurt for me to come here?"

Avatar Roku sighed. "You have been brought here in a way like never before. Usually the Avatar's connection with the spirit world enables their spirit to travel here or mentally as some would say. But it seems that there is a break in the balance of all worlds."

"A break?" Aang asked.

"Aang, when your new friends traveled to your world, they used a machine that could rip its way through different dimensions." Aang's eyes widened with surprise. "The machine's rip caused the boundaries between dimensions to crack and with timeâ€| eventually break." Roku looked through Aang with his aged eyes.

"I don't get it Avatar Roku," Aang sighed as he tried to keep calm. "Even if I passed into the Spirit World accidentallyâ€|because of

this widening ripâ€| why did it hurt so much to get here?"

Roku took a useless breath. "The gap is so wide, that your physical side has been brought here as well as your spiritual side." Aang squinted as he tried to fit all the information together. "In other words...your physical body is not in the real world. It is literally hereâ€| when it's not meant to be. I'm sorry the travels hurt you." Aang looked down at himself, as he realized that he was indeed wearing his real clothes, and that they had every rip and tear that didn't appear when he was there spiritually. He gasped.

"Roku, will I be able to get back?" Aang asked in fear.

"Aang, the rip widens. This will very easily allow you to be brought back. But bewareâ€| peril will surely come if the balance of the dimensions completely collapses!" Roku warned.

"Soâ€| the worlds are completely out of whack, I'm here physically which ISN'T supposed to happen, portals are probably going to start popping up everywhere, and to top it all off we might all end up dying?!" Aang said stunned.

There was almost a sad look on Avatar Roku's face. Aang looked up at the previous Avatar, only to be even more alerted when he saw Roku's grim expression. "Are we all going to die?" Aang asked, looking down from the other, not able to bare the sad look he was being given anymore.

"That dependsâ€|" Roku said. "Are you going to let it happen?" Aang sat back on the soft ground. They weren't going to let it happen and he knew it. The problem wasâ€| would they be able to handle it?

* * *

><p>AN: I'd like to challenge you all to review, and tell me what you seriously thought!**

**1. Suggestions?

>**2. Random Comments?**

3. Hopes?

4. Hates?

**Thanks for reading so much! You all rock! **

6. Heated Arguments

A/N: I'm not dead! Also, you probably have noticed that I have posted not only THIS chapter, but the next one, and fixed my stupid spelling error on the chapter "The Irken Rhyme". Anyway, back to the two chapters one day thing is that this chapter just became so long I had to split it into two. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Aang took a deep breath and tried to allow himself back into the real world. He felt a gentle gust of wind, then felt the spirit world's grass turn into what felt more real. It felt slightly wet,

uneven, and alive.<p>

"Aang!" he heard a voice, not too far away. He knew it was Katara, and he could hear the worry in her voice.

"I feel something!" Toph's voice announced. Aang could tell he was closer.

"Oh my gosh! He's coming!" Pinkie said, "Look at that glow!"

Aang moaned slightly, feeling a little dizzy. He forced his eyes to open, revealing his blurry friends. His vision slowly began to clear as he completely came to the real world. He gazed around at everyone looking at him with wide, worried eyes. He had to blink a few times to get his vision adjusted to the light of the morning. He gasped. Had he really just been in the spirit world the entire night?

"What on earth happened?" Sokka said loudly as Zuko and he helped Aang up. Everyone looked like they hadn't slept at all.

"I was pulled into the spirit worldâ€¦ body and all," Aang said with a bit of surprise in his voice.

"You can do that?" Katara asked completely stunned.

"Well, I shouldn't be able toâ€¦" Aang said as he held the back of his head. He looked over at the people who had just joined their team. Pinkie and ZIM looked just as surprised as the rest of his friends; if only they knew how much trouble they had caused.

"That's crazy," Toph said with a smile as she lightly punched Aang in the shoulder.

"It really hurt," Aang answered with a frown.

"Are you okay?" Pinkie's voice was filled with concern as she took a step closer. Aang knew he needed to tell them all what had happened, but he was afraid it'd start an argument.

"For now," he answered her.

"That was QUITE impressive actually," ZIM chimed in. The humans around him looked at him with surprised looks. "What? I've never seen someone teleport WITHOUT a teleporter," ZIM poked Aang in the face. "Very impressiveâ€¦" ZIM mumbled.

"Well we're all just glad you're okay now," Katara said as the rest of his friends nodded in agreement.

Aang bit his lip. He really should tell them. "Wait!" he yelled, making birds from the trees fly out with his sudden loudness.

"What?" Zuko asked confused.

"There's something really bad going on and I just need you all to listen!" Aang said with worry.

"Well whatâ€¦" Sokka started.

"No time for it Sokka," Aang said, covering Sokka's mouth, and closing his own eyes, "When I went into the spirit world I talked to Roku and he said that the reason I went fully into the spirit world was because the usually separate worlds are starting to go out of balance! That's because ZIM and Pinkie came here, disrupting the very delicate balance, and because they forced a portal, which causes stability to rock back and forth!" Aang said in a quick breath. He then gasped after his long explanation.

"Wait what?" Toph said, sitting up a little straighter.

"If we don't fix the disruptions, all of the worlds will crackle and break! It'll be really bad, and if we wait around we won't be able to stop it!" Aang admitted.

"WHAT!" Sokka cried. "That's going to be like throwing our schedule in the fire and watching it burn!" Sokka took out his color coded schedule, and looked through it.

"Sokka, all of the worlds are at stake here!" Katara said back.

"Yeah! But ours is the most at stake! We have a war on our hands!" he said, gesturing to the trees around him.

"There won't be anything on our hands if we're all destroyed," Toph cut in, "and there won't be any arguing to do! We're wasting our time."

Sokka growled. "This is all your fault!" He pointed at ZIM. "You built the thing right!? Why would you do that?!" He looked ready to pull his hair out.

"HEY! I just wanted to find assistance! How was I SUPPOSED to know that it'd cause the universal apocalypse?!" ZIM defended himself.

Zuko looked up annoyed. "Well you shouldn't have been doing anything that could have in the first place!"

"Everyponyâ€¦I meanâ€¦everybody, we have to work together to solve this!" Pinkie tried to encourage.

"Pinkie, you're just as much of the problem as they are!" Katara motioned to the bickering boys. "You came here too."

Pinkie looked offended. "I didn't make the thing though! I wasn't even trying to come here!"

"Then why did you?" Toph finally piped in.

"It was all of ZIM's invention," Pinkie said, close to tears. Aang looked at all of his friends, siding a little with each. They didn't mean to cause it, but ZIM did want to comeâ€¦ which was a dangerous risk on his part.

"I can't believe you would risk all of the worlds for your own good!" Sokka cried at ZIM.

"I SAID I didn't mean to, are you DEAF?!"

"I'll be if you keep yelling!" Toph pointed at ZIM, "Could you quit the argument and settle down?"

"You know, I have to agree with Sokka on this one," Zuko said, "I know you wanted help, but why would you even think about getting help from other worlds? Why would you jeopardize the entire world for help?"

"I DIDN'T KNOW I was jeopardizing anything alright?! Would you stop pestering me about this?!" Even when ZIM wished that he wouldn't have come, he would never have admitted to it. His pride was too high to show that he was wrong or regretful.

"Guys would you please stop arguing! We have to fix this!" Aang announced.

"We wouldn't have to fix anything if they hadn't have come!" Sokka responded to Aang. Aang was just about to answer when he heard a rustle in the trees. He glanced over at Toph. When he saw her feet shifting he knew something was up.

"Ambush!" Toph announced as her head snapped up, and she earth bended a large rock up at the trees. A man's surprised scream could be heard as one of the tree's branches snapped. Light behind the trees lit up as many firebenders jumped down from the trees and surrounded the gang with flames. The odd mix of kids quickly got in fighting stances. Sokka's anger looked as if it immediately dropped, and his face was instead replaced with focus. ZIM became even tenser as he whipped around at the enemies and scowled. The gang looked around at the attackers, noticing that they were not wearing fire nation uniforms. Instead they were wearing rags and normal apparel. There was one with shaggy black hair and fearless eyes that wore a fire nation helmet, but the helmet looked so beaten with marks that it had probably been taken from a real soldier. The man bit his lip, a cruel smile forming with his unrealistically white teeth.

The man signaled to the others as he allowed for the wall of fire to be dropped. Pinkie looked at the men with big worried eyes. Could they really be planning to kill them? She could barely afford to think that way. It just didn't seem possible.

"Well, well, folks, what do we have here?" the man sarcastically asked. "Looks to be the avatar fellas!" Katara bended the water from her pouch and got ready to attack. "Hey little lady, no need for such violence...although I doubt I could've stopped that booming argument you were having a minute ago." He gave Sokka a smile, and Sokka's expression got slightly more upset, realizing that his loudness had led them there.

"Who are you?" Toph boldly asked.

"We're your typical firebenders that just want a little money," the guy said as he rubbed his fingers together. A tall skinny man stepped up.

"And we heard you arguing so we thought we'd check ya out," the tall one said in his deep, booming voice.

"As it turns out, you'll make quite some money on the market I hear,"

Shaggy hair said as he playfully elbowed his partner. All of the other men that were surrounding the group laughed. Because there were many men the laughing sounded more like thunder.

Toph was the first to make a move, stomping on the ground making it rise up with some of the firebenders on it. They cried in surprise. Katara joined in as she whipped her water at some of the other men, and Sokka got his sword ready. Blasts from all of the other men erupted, as the simple campsite quickly turned into a battlefield. The group started to split, and the men advanced on them. There were so many, it was hard to keep track of them all. Toph felt around and sent pulses of rock, making all of the firebenders near her fall. A man attacked Pinkie from behind, but Sokka quickly leaped on him and got him to stumble in shock. ZIM let his mechanical backpack grow large legs and started to kick surprised benders and flick them away. Their eyes widened as they saw ZIM's backpack transform into a spider like contraption. He clawed at one soldier who was in the way flinging them into a nearby tree and knocking them out. The shaggy haired leader whispered something into his partner's ear and they both grinned. The tall partner shot himself into the air with an intense blast of fire, and he aimed for Toph from above. He landed on Toph, and quickly picked her up by her feet making her dangle inches above the ground. She screamed in surprise and anger and tried to throw a large rock at him. He sidestepped then quickly wrapped a vine around her two hands, making them useless as well. Aang rushed toward Toph but was grabbed by his arms and legs by two firebenders. He struggled then took a deep breath, preparing to airbend with his mouth. Katara saw this going on and split her water into many parts, sending one to Aang's attackers, and the others to who were ganging up on her. Just before Aang could get out his breath, the raven haired leader came up and socked Aang in the gut making all built up air come out in a startled gasp.

"I see what you were doing little Airbender" the leader grinned, "but it ain't working while I'm around." He grabbed a vine from the trees and gagged the young Avatar. Aang struggled with the firebender's gang but their grip kept firm. The leader turned and widened his eyes. A fast strike of water knocked him down for a moment. He gasped a breath as he rebounded back up and glared at Katara. She returned the glare with a quick dark and serious expression before she continued to fight off the rest of his men. He let out a growl and marched toward her.

Zuko and Sokka ended up back to back, both panting with spirit flowing through them. They gave each other a quick look and grinned; Zuko shot fire at one side of the surrounding men while Sokka took on the others and knocked them to the ground with his blade. Burns and cuts seemed to be dealt out to the opposing men, and they backed off to regroup. Sokka grinned proudly unaware of the single man still in the trees above them. A quick jump and shout later, the man was on top of Sokka with his sword knocked just out of his reach. Zuko whirled around to attack the man only to be shot in the back by the other firebenders who were thought to have just been regrouping. He cried out from the sudden pain, and collapsed to his knees. He threw a punch of fire at the men firing on him but the relief of the hurt was short. Darkness started to creep at the edge of his vision so he could barely make out his surroundings. He started coughing viciously surrounded by the vortex of fire that deprived him of oxygen.

"No," his raspy voice whispered, as he squinted and made out beaten

figures that seemed to be his friends. "No!" If only the attackers knew what was at stake. And with that, one more conscious breath was allowed before he crumpled to the ground next to Sokka's knocked out body. The world went black with smoke from there.

* * *

><p>AN: I realized that I was making this Avatar part of the story way too long. Originally, I was barely going to focus on this world at all. It goes to show you that your writing can become so much different than the plan.**

Please Review (If you have the time) because it really means a lot to me that you do, and I appreciate to know what I'm doing write and wrong! Have the most magically amazing day!

7. Unexpected Heroes

A/N: I have nothing to say to you people... except for "Hi! How's it going?!" (Smiles Crazy) "Thanks for reading!"

* * *

><p>Pinkie had scurried up a tree the moment the fight broke out, knowing that she wouldn't be able to fight against the others without going crazy. She bit her nails nervously wishing there was some way she could help. At first she thought her friends could handle themselves, but when she saw them capture Toph she got worried. Then it was Aang. She knew she had to do something. She searched through the busy field trying to see anything that might help. She then saw a blade lying on the ground—right next to a downed Sokka. Pinkie gasped. Zuko too? What had she let happen!? Even Appa was fending off some intruders, while Momo flew around their heads. A tear slipped out of her eye. She was going to force herself to go down there, no matter how violently her knees shook from pure terror. Pinkie mentally scanned the field and noticed the black haired leader heading toward Katara. She gasped and her eyebrows furrowed. She might not be able to do much, but Katara needed her help. Pinkie slipped down the tree and ran toward the man coming behind Katara and hurdled onto his back with force. He let out a surprised yell as his arms fumbled to get Pinkie off of him.<p>

"Get away from my friends!" She growled as her fingers dug into his shoulders and lurched herself back, yanking him to the ground. They both landed with a hard thud that left cracks in the ground. Katara turned around quickly and blasted the man with water, knocking him out. Pinkie looked up at Katara with a relieved smile for a moment then twisted into a face filled with focus as she and Katara started to get an edge on more of the men.

* * *

><p>Even though they were very annoying, it would be lying to say ZIM didn't care. He wanted revenge on these fire-controlling men that had actually dared to attack him. It was unforgivable. He saw his once loud allies knocked out on the ground and all the men that surrounded them. ZIM let out a battle cry and let the spider-like robotic legs rush him over to the scene. They kicked and hit the men, while ZIM lowered down in the middle to protect the allies. He took out his ray

gun and started rapidly shooting it at benders. He looked at the dial, and clenched his jaw as he set it from normal blasts to knock-out blasts. Those would be way easier. ZIM dodged the inferno from the men trying to kill him, and charged his weapon. The only downside to the knock-out setting was that it took a few seconds to be able to fire. As soon as the weapon was ready he looked around for a good target. As soon as he saw the leader's partner with Toph still in his grip, ZIM smirked and fired the weapon. It hit the tall man right in the head knocking him out instantly and allowing Toph to run over by Katara and Pinkie with a relieved look on her face. The firebenders looked around as they realized that many of their men were down; with both of their leaders easily out for at least an hour. Some gulped, others looked more determined. Every few seconds ZIM shot another blast at someone else, making their eyes roll to the back of their heads and bodies go completely limp. Soon there were only a few shaking men left who took one glance at the futuristic weapon then ran back into the trees. Who knew fully grown men could squeal so high? ZIM just smiled. He then remembered the two whom he had come for in the first place. He examined Sokka and Zuko to make sure they were both breathing. Once he saw both of their chests rise, ZIM gave Sokka's cheek a loud slap. Sokka sat up fast regretting it a moment later when his vision went fuzzy as the blood rushed from his head. Not to mention how he winced from the injuries he had received. ZIM looked down at Sokka with a face that lacked worry.<p>

"Thanks," Sokka said with a sarcastic voice although he didn't actually seem mad anymore. He sat up a little straighter. "Listen," he said as he rubbed his tender cheek, "I'm sorry that I got so worked up about youâ€|" Sokka's voice slurred.

"You can tell me of your admiration later!" ZIM interrupted, as he gestured to Zuko's body. Sokka looked down, and noticed Zuko face-first on the ground, realizing fast that he must've gotten knocked out right after him. He gave Zuko's shoulder a slight shake to wake him up. A groan came from the bender's throat as he slowly allowed himself to sit up.

"Ow," he simply stated as his fingers lightly felt the burn on his back. It was nothing serious, but that didn't mean it didn't hurt. "What happened?" Zuko asked, turning to Sokka.

"I think ZIM saved us," Sokka said with a mischievous smile. ZIM's eyes widened. He did save them didn't he? He shook his head in disgust. There was no way he'd be turned soft by these things. Sure, he had saved them, but they might be able to fix the universeâ€| or something.

"I was merely performing NATURAL instinct!" ZIM declared. Sokka and Zuko looked at ZIM, then each other. Small smiles of gratefulness lightly appeared on their faces.

"Tell your instincts I said thanks," Sokka said as he slowly got up. His eyes went over to Katara, but he relaxed as he saw that she and Pinkie had freed Aang, and Toph was no longer in the grip of the creepy partner. The whole group met in the middle of the camp that was littered with bodies. Pinkie watched as the chests rose and fell of all the unconscious men. It was a little unnerving. At least they were alive. Katara looked at her and smiled, no longer filled with the anger that she felt before. Pinkie looked relieved and smiled back clearly glad that Katara wasn't mad anymore.

"Pinkie saved me back there," she said with a gesture in the pink haired girl's direction.

"You were in trouble and I had to help," Pinkie said with a blush. "I also was just shivering in a tree for most of the fight so you really can't call me your hero."

Toph leaned on Pinkie. "Eh, you come from a place that isn't used to fighting. I'd say it's an honest response."

"At least you helped out in the end," Zuko said.

"ZIM protected Zuko and I while we were down," Sokka noted with an impressed look. ZIM grinded his teeth together at the reminder of the one thing in his life that he had done with no real reason. The rest of the group just seemed to smile about it.

"It wasn't protecting!" ZIM defended.

"It was protecting, and it was GOOD!" Sokka started. "What were those mechanical things? And what is that?" He pointed at ZIM's ray gun.

ZIM's eyes lit up at the mention of one of his favorite subjects. Technology.

"Well," ZIM casually flipped his gun around in his hand. "To answer the question, this is the most technologically advanced ray gun known in my universe."

"What exactly is a ray gun?" Zuko said curiously as he examined the small gadget in ZIM's hand. ZIM laughed loudly which was returned by strange looks from the others.

"Are you brains filled with beans?!" ZIM clawed at the air. "It's the most lethal weapon ever!" To prove his point ZIM flipped the knob on the gun to "Explosive" and shot it at a tree. A giant fireball flew toward the tree and completely destroyed it. Everyone else's eyes popped out of their heads as they watched the small remains burn.

"Did you just blow up that tree?" Toph said as she turned to face the crisps.

"YES!" ZIM answered, then turned back to Sokka, "As for the other gadgets thoseâ€¦" he scratched his head with a frustrated expression, not quite sure how to explain his pack. "They are mechanical legs that I control because they are connected to my brainâ€¦" Everyone looked surprised, with Pinkie's jaw dropping the most.

"That is so cool!" she said with an excited smile.

"Listen ZIM," Sokka said as he nervously rubbed his hands together. "I'mâ€¦wellâ€¦I guess I'm sorry for how I blamed you so much for theâ€¦ you know the world's endâ€¦" Everyone's light expressions turned a little more serious and sad as they looked down at their feet.

"Yeahâ€¦" Katara agreed with a frown. ZIM looked up at the humans. He

had never been apologized to before, and he honestly didn't care. It was pleasing to be respected by another species though. He smirked at the thought.

"I accept your grief and pain!" he told them with a grin. Pinkie looked down at the ground.

"How are we supposed to stop the collapse?" she asked surprisingly serious.

Aang piped up, "It seems a bit impossible actually." A small smile of hope appeared on his face. "But I think if you returnedâ€|" he trailed off not sure how to put it lightly.

"With my calculations, I think we'd need more than THAT to close these gaps!" ZIM told the others with a pondering expression.

"What would we need?" Katara asked concerned.

"Energy," ZIM said quietly.

"Wait," Toph questioned, "how much energy?" ZIM's jaw tightened as he calculated how much it might take.

"Well, simple laws state that once something is put into motion, it stays in motion. The force of my first arrival must have broken through and now it continues to GROW in sizeâ€|" he told the humans with a frown. He started to mumble and looked frustrated as he paced around.

"What's wrong?" Zuko asked, crossing his arms.

"I swear I built the thing so carefully that it would barely expand anythingâ€|" ZIM mumbled back. "It just doesn't add up that it would cause such MASS destruction."

Toph gave a hopeful smirk. "It'll probably take a while if such a small action is making it go out of balance, and if we have no idea how to stop it yetâ€|"

"Are you suggesting we do NOTHING?!" ZIM asked.

"No!" Toph quickly said. "It'd be better to figure out what we're doing instead of wandering around aimlessly like we're allâ€| blind." Her aggression vanished into a small frown as she pointed at ZIM. "It's not exactly a nice feeling."

"Okay," Pinkie agreed, "it probably would be best if we figured out what to do first!" She smiled and looked at the people that she felt like she already knew so much. "This will be fun," she said determined.

"It'd be nice to have some of that," Aang sighed with a longing look. He tried to smile, but it looked strained to the rest of the group.

"Well," Katara said, "we'd better get moving. These people will be waking up soon." She started to walk through the piles of men with a serious expression on her face. Hopefully they wouldn't get tracked by these guys again. It was hard enough to deal with a war, but

ambushers? Dimensions? This whole thing was getting pretty ridiculousâ€¦ almost like the universe was going out of whack before ZIM and Pinkie had even come there. She hoped Roku was wrong this time, or else they were up for something Katara didn't know if they could defeat.

* * *

><p>The rest of the group followed Katara's lead and headed toward Appa. She looked back at the group as they joined her. An encouraging smile appeared on her face, and the others returned it. Aang climbed into his familiar spot right behind Appa's head as the others piled into the saddle. Pinkie jumped in whole heartedly, while ZIM had to be pushed in by Sokka and Zuko. Katara noticed that Aang was still pale, although she didn't know if it was because he was still recovering, or that he wasn't at all. If he was still having problems it made sense that he hadn't been able to put on a genuine smile before.<p>

"Aang are you going to be alright?" Katara asked as she grabbed onto Appa's saddle, preparing for the harsh takeoff.

His head twisted toward her. "I honestly don't know." He turned to the front again. "I just haven't felt right since I came back." He gripped the reigns a bit tighter.

"How not rightâ€¦?" Toph asked as she flicked a piece of lint off her finger.

"Like I could be pulled back at any second," he answered as he touched his face like he was making sure he was still there.

"Maybe you SHOULD go back!" ZIM suggested, crossing his arms.

"Why would you say that?!" Katara asked in a worried tone.

"Because! Maybe this spirit world has the energy we NEED!" He wagged a finger like it was completely obvious. By then Aang almost looked a sickly shade of green.

"Maybe this is supposed to happen," Pinkie suggested. She was returned with confused faces. "Maybe something in the spirit dimension is calling to you." She looked around. "_Maybe_ it's help,"

"And _maybe_ it's an evil library owl," Sokka said sarcastically. Katara shot him a death glare. "What? I said _maybe_â€¦"

Katara's glare softened. "Aang?" she said as she cocked her head.

"I'll go back, if that's what we think I need to do."

"You don't need to do that," Pinkie spoke up. She crawled closer to Aang as Appa gave a grunt. "_We_ have to do it, together."

"You want me to try and take you to the spirit world?" Aang raised an eyebrow as his grimace twisted more.

"You're PASSING so EASILY I doubt it will bring you much trouble. The

most you will feel is a tiny shock now that your body has been in the spirit world once," ZIM said as he scratched his chin.

"The spirit world is dangerous," Aang pleaded, although it sounded more like a gasp.

"We can handle it," Katara said, putting a hand on his shoulder. He looked deep in her eyes and watched the way her lips formed into a gentle smile. If anyone could convince him of something, it would be Katara. Even though the pain got worse, it did seem to vanish when he had transported last time; too bad it started coming back again when he and his friends got attacked.

"Some of you need to stay behind," Aang commented as he clutched himself, trying to keep from traveling to the spirit world before it was necessary.

"I can," Sokka volunteered. "I doubt a sword will do good in the spirit world, y'know going right through them and stuff?" he said, taking out the sword and admiring it.

"I'll stay behind too," Toph said. "I'll be able to tell if anyone is sneaking up on Senior Snooze-A-Lot." She gestured to Sokka who made a face, and bit his lip.

"Alright, I have no idea where we'll appear," he warned with a gravely whisper. "I don't exactly have much control anymore." Pinkie took his hand and ZIM's hand and put on a brave face.

"We'll come back Toph, Sokka," she promised. Her hand linked with Katara's and Katara's other hand with Zuko's. Once they were in a full circle with Aang, he let go of all the pain that he had built up from keeping himself there, and turned it so he could bring everyone into the spirit world. With a quick breeze they went from warm summery air to the frigid feeling of the colder spirits. Aang felt like a weight had been lifted from his chest. It felt better, although the unease continued. Nothing looked familiar in this part of the dimension. Green smoke trickled around everywhere leaving trails that made his skin tingle on his bones. Moans could be heard from a distance away, and doors upon doors floated around like they had minds of their own. The only thing that looked close to land was a small floating island. He looked at his friends, starring at the same thing he was.

"A green floating islandâ€¦" ZIM's eyes widened.

"Wait a secondâ€¦ islands don't have eyes do they?" Pinkie asked. Indeed, when Aang inspected the mass closer red beady eyes stared back at him. He gulped.

"That isn't an island."

The shaggy cat-like "island" moved forward and snapped at the group with massive teeth. They screamed in a variety of pitches and voices as the monster towered over them. The cat-thing growled and opened its eyes widely. As if the beast had some sort of paralyzing look, he stared straight at Aang. When Aang tried to move or bend, he couldn't. He glanced over at the rest of the group he had led to their dooms. All of them seemed frozen too. A green fire hit the monster from behind, startling it. It turned to see what had hit it,

only to be blasted in the face again.

"Woah, who let this cat out of its bag?" the stranger asked in a sarcastic voice as he flew in front of the monster and put his hands together. The cat almost looked fearful of the tiny white-haired kid that floated in front of it. From his hands, he let out the green fire, with an even more intense brightness and look of power than Aang had seen him use moments ago. He had no idea what form of bending the green fire was. If it even WAS fire. After the powerful shot the cat let out a screech, then hissed at the kid. And as soon as it had attacked, it ran away.

"Scaredy cat!" the kid mumbled. He flew down to the horrified gang who just witnessed a tiny teenager take on an island-sized monster with a smile.

"Hey, you guys okay?" he asked as he waved a hand in front of their eyes in a lame attempt to snap them out of their awe.

"Who?" Aang heard himself mumble.

The kid blushed. "Me? My name's Danny Phantom."

* * *

><p>AN: And now things get messy. Got reviews? I'd love to hear what you'd like to say! Got milk? That's cool bro. Thanks to all of you that did review, and to some of you... I promise I'll get to everyone's world I really do. I just have them very specifically planned out. But I will try to be less slow. If that is even possible for a person like me. Anyway, thanks for reading have a wonderfully fantastic day!**

8. The Blame Game

A/N: Aren't I a terrible person? A million apologizes for basically dying for the months I was not active! There was a lot of homework, and stress... and don't even get me started on the fact that I wrote most of the chapter then scrapped it! I am really sorry though, and I hope my fateful followers can forgive me. This chapter I'm really proud of and I'm so thankful for all of you that have stuck with me through this drought of inspiration. Specifically I'd like to thank... 2BlondieGirl, Bladeinflammé, ImmaRainbowDash, Random Irken Derp, Tacosaurus, dippymabes5608, lunarcatx, Hiccup-Rosenblatt, Galaxy The NightWing, LazaPie, "Jess21115", "Dipper Pines", and "cayde". Thank you all for being there for me everyone, and their great support. I cannot begin to say how much you all mean to me.

* * *

><p>"That name is stupid!" spouted out the child, with narrowing red eyes. Danny's small smile was quickly replaced by a scowl. It had taken him forever to fully decide on that name, and now this kid came out of nowhere to tell him it was dumb. Biting his lip, he looked at the rest of the group of people. Their eyes were wide with fear, caution. The very same look he wore on his face when he first saw his ghostly appearance in a mirror. The unnatural neon in his eyes, the bright glow surrounding him some people couldn't get past it. As

he opened his dry mouth to speak he hoped that they would be open-minded. He barely breathed in before the brown-haired girl cut him off.<p>

"He didn't mean it, right ZIM?" She looked at the other child with a sense of panic.

"Actually I," he didn't get a chance to finish before she covered his mouth.

"We're sorry for disturbing you," The bald kid said with an unusual bow, "and thank you for saving us. We really should get goingâ€|"

"Oh, I was wondering about that actually," Danny quickly chimed in before the opportunity passed, "I can lead you out, because if you came in a natural portal, it's probably closed by now," He gave a smile. More confused looks clouded the unusual group's faces. They had no idea what he was talking about. Did he consider Aang a natural portal?

Pinkie wasn't sure what to make of this ghastly figure in front of her. He seemed friendly enough, but that didn't mean she could trust what he said. So, she only laid back, in unusual silence waiting for the ones who knew about spirits to handle it. She casually put her hand over her mouth to keep from shouting something out, as she felt her eyes go wide from keeping silent.

"How do we know if we can trust you?" Zuko said pointing his finger at the spirit, "We may have just seen you beat down a threat but how do we know you aren't planning on doing the same to us?" Pinkie's eyes fell from Zuko to Katara, who was like a cat after being spooked, eyes wide and alert. Pinkie shuddered at the distant wails that could frequently be heard from all directions.

"Because, I just saved your lives, and I'm pretty light and fluffy compared to the rest of the Ghost Zone!" The ghost said with a raise in his voice. Then a mumble of "â€|would be so much easier if they knew about meâ€|"

ZIM didn't trust the lies that the spirit was threading into the air. ZIM had seen a lot of dark things, and he knew from experiences that no one is ever truly friendly. They always had a twist, words written between the lines. There was always something in it for them, and there was no such thing as "just from the goodness of one's heart". If organisms truly cared about each other ZIM would already be back on Irk. But because they are conniving and evil they ruin each of his desperate plans to win his leaders back in his favor.

"Nobody believes your silly pleas, they are all LIES!" ZIM challenged the supernatural being.

Danny shuffled his hand through his hair nervously. "Listen, I'm sorry, I just want toâ€|" Taking a moment to shiver, he soon continued, "I just want to get you home safely because this place isn't safeâ€|" He looked at all of them, some of them looking the other way when his eyes tried to meet theirs. A howl screeched from far away. Katara, jumping at the sound met Danny's desperate stare for a moment, and her eyebrows dropped slightly.

Katara didn't know if she should trust him, but he honestly looked scared. It was impossible to fake the darting vision, the way he slightly squinted. A little bit of red skin was visible on his lip from biting it. He was at least nervous, she concluded that much. It was unclear if it was the truth coming from him or not. She took a deep breath, only to cough at the shallow sour air.

"Are you alright?" The spirit quickly asked, as he put his icy hand on her shoulder. Surprised at the sudden contact she pushed herself away from him.

"Katara, what's wrong?" Aang asked. His face was filled with concern. "Did he hurt you?" Aang looked her down hoping she was alright, only shooting a quick glance in the specter's direction.

"No!" Her head turned toward the ghost who looked so scared and sad, like he had done something horrible and was regretting it. "You'd think I'd be used to the cold by now!" she muttered.

"Oh man, I'm sorry," Danny said. "I completely forgot how cold I can be sometimes! it wasn't freezing was it?"

"No, but it did surprise me," Katara said with a relieved breath. For the spirit's sake she smiled, trying to make him stop freaking out. "Nothing bad though." The more this ghost talked to them, the easier he was to trust. He was just so normal. If it wasn't for the glow she could've sworn he was just a normal kid. A normal kid with a very different lifestyle, but still normal.

A roar could be heard nearby, and a putrid smell whisked past the group of teenagers. "What was that?" Zuko said, as he got in a defensive position, which was hard considering they were floating in midair. Danny's eyes widened and he went pale.

"I'm guessing that howl was a spirit?" Aang asked.

"Probably," Danny Phantom answered to the group. He didn't seem like he cared about the question. His attention was definitely on something else.

"Well you could probably handle it, right?" Pinkie said with a weary yet a bit hopeful smile on her face.

"That's not what I'm worried about. That smell is fresh ectoplasm!" He told them with a frown. "And as much as I'd like to make a joke to lighten up the mood, that won't help anyone right now!" So Phantom held out his hands.

"There is NO WAY I will grab onto your meaty mitts of repulsion!" ZIM growled. This spirit was going to kill them all if they just blindly followed his trap. The alien's bottom lip stuck out with stubbornness.

Katara grabbed the spirit's hand, and looked at the rest of the group. They still seemed hesitant. They were still scared. Honestly, Katara was scared, but she trusted this soul in front of them more than she trusted whatever was out there.

"I trust him," Aang said as he looked at the rest of the group. With a shallow breath he took the hand of the phantom. He didn't really

trust this "Danny Phantom" but he knew that sometimes fears had to be put aside if others were in possible danger.

"You all are SICK!" ZIM screamed looking rather upset. "You're SETTING yourselves UP!"

"Listen, ZIM!" Zuko's voice rang. Everyone jumped at the sharp sound of his voice as no one had seen any signs that ZIM had been ticking him off. "Trust is hard okay?! It doesn't always work! But right now we're in over our heads and we need help! If anyone should be complaining about trust it should be Aang and Katara not trusting ME! I chased them for foreverâ€¦ and did horrible unspeakable thingsâ€¦" His voice faded out. "And yet they are the first ones willing to trust this childâ€¦" He looked over at his friends. "So I trust him too."

Danny was at a loss for words, and considering the green kid's dropped jaw, he was too. Not that Danny was complaining about the silence. He gave the most encouraging smile he could afford, hoping to get some answers once they were out of harm's way. "Just, grab onto their hands," he said as he gestured over to Katara and Aang with a nod in their direction. The alien laced his hand with Pinkie's, and her hand with Katara's. "It's high time we fly outta here!" Danny chirped, as he started to fly. He shuddered at the growls in the distance. If it was another one of those... no. They'd be fine, he'd get them out. He started to fly a bit faster, completely blocking out the pink-haired girl's laughter and all of the talking. He needed to focus. They just couldn't come againâ€¦ It couldn't happen again. He wouldn't let it. Not when more than one life was on the line.

* * *

><p>Applejack frowned at the heated battle taking place. After Pinkie disappeared, the ponies all reacted in different ways. Rarity was the first to freak out. The poor pony had started to panic for their friend's wellbeing and eventually fainted, accidentally landing on Fluttershy as something to cushion her fall. A few birds flew by chirping quickly, and as Fluttershy heard them her small face went more serious. With a nod she gently set Rarity down in the grass, then galloped away from the scene, letting the birds guide her way. Rainbow Dash flew off, claiming she was going to go get some supplies. Before anypony could respond or ask her a question she was gone, leaving only a slight rainbow behind her. The rest of the ponies overcame their silent shock, leading to the accusations that started flying through the air.<p>

"â€¦thisâ€¦ thisâ€¦" Twilight was close to tears. "Zecoraâ€¦ what have you done?" The zebra had just been walking around the perimeter of where the potion mix had struck. Her expression remained emotionless and her eyes were filled with concentration as she studied the scene. "Zecora? Do you even care?!" Twilight's lip quivered, momentarily reminding Applejack of a small filly.

"Everypony's tryin' in their different ways Twilight," Applejack tried to say in a reassuring voice. "We're all just as shocked as you are alright?"

"I know, butâ€¦" The alicorn shuddered. "Pinkie's trapped all alone

with thatâ€¦ THAT THING!" She lowered her head in shame, "And it's all our fault that she isâ€¦" Zecora looked up from her work and glanced at the two ponies, then without a word the zebra walked into her hut.

"We need to stay calm and quit blaming ourselves," Applejack said as she took a few steps closer to Twilight.

"Really, it's Zecora's faultâ€¦" Twilight whispered.

"Oh now, don't say that." Applejack patted her alicorn friend on the back. "Pinkie was just too close to the kooky concoctionâ€¦" It was hard for Applejack to not give in to the ache of sorrow inside. She needed to stay strong for everyone, if Twilight and the others were so distressedâ€¦ someone needed to be the support for them.

"But think about it Applejackâ€¦ I hate to just assume things but it was ZECORA'S mix, and Zecora didn't say anything about being close to it!" Twilight's voice rose and Applejack felt a lump forming in her throat. For once in her life, she had no idea what to do. "She was even there and she still hasn't even shown a hint of sadness now that Pinkie's gone!" The pony's limbs tightened. She needed to set this straight. She slipped out of Applejack's gentle gesture and trotted over to the zebra's hut. Applejack bit her lip as she trotted after Twilight, knowing whatever was about to happen wasn't going to be pleasant.

* * *

><p>"So you're from a different dimension?" Danny asked as they passed through the portal.<p>

"Yeah, and from what I've seen so far it's nothing like yours," Aang answered.

"Hopefully it won't be that different, otherwise people will be suspicious around us," Katara added. Danny let go of their hands and everyone slowly spread out.

ZIM couldn't believe they escaped that place in one piece; all while being led by some mysterious being. Passing through the portal had felt odd to say the least. The Irken could feel his skin tingle from the sudden change in temperature and gravity, and now instead of surrounded by green smoke, the scene had changed to a lab that smelled like...fudge?

"Are you guys alright?" The ghost asked looking around the lab.

Katara patted down her frizzled hair, "It just was a little fastâ€¦" she commented with a gleam in her eye. Going fast was both terrifying and exciting. She then was distracted by the gleaming glass and twinkling lights blinking around them. It was beautiful.

"I feel like throwing up!" Pinkie announced with a smile.

"I told you not to do all of those extra flips when you were weightlessâ€¦" Zuko commented. "And what did you do?"

"Extra flips!" Pinkie hiccupped, and then gave a silly grin. "Oh,

false alarm!"

"Hey Phantom...?" Aang asked, after he too had taken in the surroundings.

"Yeah?" Danny looked at the guests with tired eyes. His stomach growled, reminding him that he had skipped supper.

"I know you've done a ton for us, and we are so thankfulâ€¦" Aang started. Danny gulped. These were never good questions. "â€¦but do you have any idea of where we could stay for the night?"

Danny repeated the words with nervous face, "Stay for the nightâ€¦"

"Shouldn't YOU know about this dimension?" ZIM baited, hoping that he could get everyone else to see the spirit for the phony that he was. "Or was it all a trap?"

"No! It's not a trap, I justâ€¦" Danny grinded his teeth together as he desperately tried to form some kind of idea. They could stay there, in his homeâ€¦ but would they trust him as Fenton?

"Do you have a plan?" Pinkie asked with one more hiccup.

"Yes," Phantom said looking at them with panic lingering in his expression. "I know a guy who lives here, and if his parents say yes, you could stay here." The group looked at each other, and with a few nods they seemed to be satisfied with the spirit's answer. "I'llâ€¦ fill him in and he will tell his folks you... you are his new friends, alright?"

"We'll tryâ€¦" Zuko muttered as he picked up a beaker and looked at the sloshing green substance inside. "Could you explain where we are first?" He was so confused of what kind of place they were in. "Give us some general knowledge at least?"

"The guy I mentioned, he'll fill you in and will do all of the talkingâ€¦ justâ€¦ agree with what he says in front of his parents, and don't ask about anything," Danny locked stares with each of them to make sure they understood. Just how little did they know about here?

"We can handle something like that," Aang said looking at the ghost.

"I'll come check on you guys tomorrow," Phantom promised, as he held out his hands again, "but first we need to get you out of their basement, to avoid some unwanted confusion." Their hands linked together, as Phantom quickly phased them through the layers of the building to the surface of the sidewalk.

"Soâ€¦ we just wait here?" Zuko asked.

Phantom took a few steps toward the house. "He'll be out to give you the news in a few minutes." With a final look and a wave, Phantom flew invisibly back into the house.

Danny of course went to his own room. He let go on the intangibility and as soon as he felt the solid floor beneath him he triggered the

human side of him, and let it take over his identity once again. A bright ring appeared crackling into two and stretching down his body as it revealed the jeans and t-shirt of Danny Fenton. He laughed to himself how ironic it was that he was the "guy" he was talking about. After returning to his familiar human ways he flung open his bedroom door, ready to create some kind of sappy story so his folks might be convinced to let five random kids stay in their home. He walked down the stairs and then down more stairs to the lab. Luckily, his mother was there connecting a few wires on some new gadget.

"Hey mom?" Danny cautiously approached her. Ghost or not, anyone should be weary when Maddie Fenton held a weapon. Maddie turned around to see her son. A smile brightened up her face as she turned in her chair to hear her son. She had learned she needed to cherish these moments when she got them. For some reason, Danny didn't strike up conversations with her or Jack much anymore. It wasn't like he had anything to be afraid of; Jack and Maddie were both ghost hunters, so they could keep him safe, worry free.

"Yes Danny?" She set down the gadget, which led to her son being a little less tense than before.

"Can I have someâ€¦ friends over?" He stared down at his feet, already predicting the worst of answers.

"Ohâ€¦ Sam and Tucker are always welcome here," Maddie said, returning to her work. She found it a bit odd that he thought he needed to ask that again.

"No, five new friends, and they need a place to stay for the night," Danny spoke, cutting to the chase.

This threw Maddie off her guard. "Did you say five friends?" She was astounded at this. Her child hadn't made a new friend since middle school.

Danny's face turned to a frown as he mumbled, "I know, too manyâ€¦"

"Danny of course your friends can stay!" She jumped up from her seat, forgetting the unfinished work on the table. "This will be a great opportunity for you!" She ran up to him and hugged him. "I'm so glad you're finally making some friends!"

Jack, Danny's father, peaked his head out from the stairs. "Did I hear Danny-boy made some friends?!" His face was covered in a wide grin.

"Yes Jack! Isn't it wonderful?" Maddie embraced her husband.

"Geezâ€¦" Danny whispered. "You'd think I was getting into Harvard the way they're celebratingâ€¦." He looked at his parents, who were excitedly talking with each other with speeds he couldn't follow. "I'm going to go get them okay?" Danny inched his way out of the lab with a blank face, not sure exactly how to react. He marched immediately to the front door, and opened it. The group was sitting on the sidewalk close to his house. They slowly got up and brushed themselves off, assuming he was who they were waiting for. "Hi, I'm supposed to pretend to be your friendâ€¦ and stuffâ€¦" Danny

announced to them. It was extremely hard for him, because as soon as he started bonding with them as Phantom, fate slapped him in the face and demanded Fenton. Looking at the faces that lacked trust was hard enough the first time... and now he looked at the same faces again. "Well, come on in." Danny gestured them in with a hand. "And remember, Phantom was right when he said don't ask questions."

"How do we KNOW you're not going to KILL us?" ZIM asked.

"Oh come on ZIM, if he's Phantom's friend, then he's our friend!" Pinkie announced. She saw the teen in front of them turn around nervously, like it wasn't something he liked to announce. She wondered whyâ€¦ Phantom seemed like a nice guy, not something to be nervous about. Pinkie then grabbed ZIM's hand and pulled him inside, while ZIM gagged at something sticky in her palm.

"Frostingâ€¦" The Irken mumbled as he was dragged inside. The sickening thing was, the house reminded him of things he had built. With advanced technology on the roof, and a lab in the basement, ZIM couldn't fully hate the place due to the wonder that came from it.

As the rest of the teens filed in, they were greeted by an orange man and blue woman.

"Hi kids!" Maddie said waving to them. "It's so nice to meet Danny's new friends." She shook a few of their palms.

"Mom, dial it downâ€¦" Danny whispered, only to be talked over by the excited Jack.

"He's not real good at making friends but you'll learn to love 'em," Jack told the kids in a hushed tone. Katara tried hard not to laugh at the over-enthusiastic parents. "Who wants to hear me talk about ghosts?" The father's eyes sparkled.

"I do!" Pinkie raised her hand. These people were like a refreshing breeze on a scorching day. Finally, there was someone who smiled and embraced without wondering who she was. For a moment, it felt like she was home. Pinkie wondered what her friends were doing. Were they looking for her? Orâ€¦ did they just forget? She shook the thought out of her mind.

"No!" Danny spoke up. "Uh, not untilâ€¦" He looked around for an excuse to avoid a ten hour discussion with his Dad. His eyes focused on a blanket, reminding him why the people were there in the first place. "We haven'tâ€¦uhâ€¦ set up their beds!"

"Good point Danny!" Maddie patted her son on the back. It was amazing how chipper his mom could be at times, especially when the other times she was trying to waste him as Phantom.

"That's right son! Fentons don't let their guests sit with nowhere to go!" Jack shouted. "I'll go find our sleeping bags and you kids can set up in Danny's room!"

Maddie looked up at her husband frowning at his statement. "Wouldn't the kids like it better if they had somewhere bigger, Jack?" she asked, putting a hand on his arm.

"Well, I suppose if you're alright with it you all could sleep in the Fenton Ghost Assault Vehicle!" Jack said with a smile.

"The _living_ room," Maddie said with only slight annoyance in her voice.

"That sounds fine!" Aang said, although he had no idea what they were talking about. Danny noticed the confused expression the kid was displaying and whispered something about explaining once they were alone.

"I'll go get the sleeping bags!" Jack called as he went off into the other parts of the home.

"Where do you buy this kind of clothing?" Maddie asked curiously to the guests. After all, she had been staring at their very detailed outfits for a while now.

Danny's eyes widened. "They are wearing costumes! From a play?"

Maddie yawned. "Wow!" Another yawn. "Oh I'm sorry, your father and I have been up for a while now." She rubbed her gloved hands together.

Danny returned his mom's warm smile. "That's fine; you should really go to bed."

Maddie looked at her son and smiled. "Yes, I really should," she said as she headed for the kitchen.

"Your parents seem to really love you," Zuko mentioned with a frown on his face. "That must be nice!" Danny turned toward the scarred face that had spoken to him, and for a moment he understood the pain this kid must've felt.

"Yeah," Danny murmured. "I guess they do."

* * *

><p>"Zecora, LISTEN to me!" Twilight yelled, tears now streaming down her face. "Pinkie's gone! Please, can you even pretend to care?!"

"I already announced that I am working Twilight! Yet you constantly ruin my efforts with your spite!" The Zebra said, defending herself.

"Enough with your pointless mixing! My friend could be dead! What are you doing about it!?" Twilight called out again, completely destroyed. Applejack watched from the door as Twilight circled around Zecora, as the zebra tried to read.

"Ya'll need to calm down!" Applejack warned her friends. She didn't want to see them keep destroying themselves and each other in the process.

"And Applejack! What are you doing? You've been standing there for the past several minutes, and YOU blew it off like it was no big deal. What was that about?!" The alicorn was gone, too lost in her

sadness and rage to understand.

"I'm tryin' to keep us from doin' something we may regret!" The earth pony said with her muscles getting tense.

"How dare you come in my home, yell in my face?" Zecora said, turning to Twilight and reared up. "I am doing my best, so give me my space!" The zebra tried to push Twilight out, only to notice the alicorn's horn had started to glow. With that, Zecora grabbed a potion off her shelves, ready to defend the attack.

"Would you quit fightin'?" Applejack ran into the hut and jumped on Twilight just as she let loose on her magic. It bounced off the walls, slamming and burning them, and crushing vials and ingredients in its path until it flew out the open door. Pinning Twilight down, Applejack could see the hurt in her friends eyes, and she looked over at Zecora who was still holding the potion tight. "Hun, Zecora is tryin' her best alright?"

Twilight looked her friend Applejack in the eyes, and knew that she could trust her. She was just so confused and angryâ€¦ why did it all have to happen? Those things just weren't supposed to happenâ€¦ not to good ponies at least. "Applejackâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I just don't understand." Twilight gave up struggling under her stronger friend's weight.

"Twilight my friend, I have been trying to tell, that I have been making something, while you would yell. I am making a portal, or at least an attempt, so from your wrath may I now be exempt?" Zecora commented. Before Twilight could answer, or even apologize, a pegasus rushed into the hut with a look of dread on her face.

Fluttershy had tears in her eyes. "Fluttershy?" Twilight croaked, as Applejack helped her up. Fluttershy looked around the room nervously.

"I thought somepony might still be hereâ€¦" Fluttershy sobbed, barely able to get her words out.

"What is it?" Applejack asked, rushing to her friend's aid.

"It's Discordâ€¦ something's very wrongâ€¦." She let the words spill out of her mouth.

"What do you mean?" Twilight sniffled, still trying to recover from what she had just done.

"He'sâ€¦ he won't moveâ€¦ all he'll do is sit and stareâ€¦" The forest was all too silent, allowing the crying to be heard in echoes.

* * *

><p>The lights in the Fenton household were now off and everyone was settled down in their sleeping bags. Danny looked at the shadows of the people he had welcomed into his home. He sat on the couch, while they were spread on the floor or in chairs. A small smile crept onto his face. The kids weren't so bad once you got to know them. Danny looked at them closely and pulled his sheets over himself. Purposefully, he phased through the couch. As much as he thought the

kids were good people, he couldn't help but feel that someone was behind their sudden appearance. He flew out of the house, not realizing one of his guests was not as deep in sleep as he thought.<p>

As Danny flew through the air he felt the chilling breeze whip past him. Even in the dark he could tell where he was going. He knew where he had to go. Vlad had always been a sicko, but bringing innocent kids to somewhere they didn't understand was pretty low for him. Danny swerved the streets, barely able to enjoy the crisp night because of how angry he was with the older half-ghost. He flew through the older man's mansion, not caring about privacy at this point. He found the man sitting at a computer, with all of the lights dimmed. The man turned around in his chair and pressed a button on a remote. Immediately, Danny was snagged up by a rope that had come out of a ceiling compartment.

"Daniel, to what do I owe your rare visit this time?" Vlad Masters asked as he transformed into his ghost half, Vlad Plasmius.

"Don't you dare try to use another one of your lies, Vlad!" Danny growled, as he struggled in the trap. "I know what you didâ€|"

Vlad's eyes narrowed and his smirk grew. "Oh Danielâ€| would I _ever_ lie to you?"

* * *

><p>Thanks for reading, hope you enjoyed! Review on anything, and tell your friends!<p>

9. Connecting the Dots

A/N: Yes I am alive. This year has been filled with stress and anxiety but I finally pulled myself up again. So here, to all the loyal fans, thank you for sticking with me to the bitter end, and hopefully this chapter gets you excited as I was when I picked up this story again. Have feedback? Review it!

And yes, I will see this story to its end. Even if it kills me. P.S. This chapter is a bit darker than the others, but nothing really messed up.

* * *

><p>The minute Zuko had lain on the Fenton's cold, hard floor he knew he wasn't going to rest well. Odd lights created green shadows that danced on the walls and the putrid smell of the spirit world lingered in the air. Even then, he might have been able to get past those facts if his mind hadn't been racing so fast. There were too many things that Danny Fenton had not explained, and too many lies coming from both Fenton and Phantom. Zuko's teeth meshed together a little tighter with frustration. It bothered him that the teenager had barely told them anything and yet Zuko was sure that he was lying. It doesn't matter anyway. Zuko thought to himself darkly. _The dimensions are going to end soon, with us not being able to do anything about it. And if that doesn't end, then the war at homeâ€|_He took a deep breath unleashing a cool flow into his lungs. _No.

Weâ€¦ I can't afford to think like that._ He rested on his arm and looked around him. _I guess it doesn't help any of them if I only lower our morale._

Movement snapped Zuko out of his thoughts. Fenton threw his blanket over his body in a quick fluid motion. The blankets then sunk in. The impression of the child underneath was gone. Startled, Zuko's eyes widened as he jumped to his feet in a fighting stance. He was pretty sure he wouldn't like what was going on.

"What are you doing?" Zuko whispered. When the host didn't reply Zuko reached over and pulled the sheet. "This isn't funn-" A small, surprised breath escaped the firebender's mouth. "Heâ€¦" Words tried to form. Only a faint indent showed any sign of someone being there in the first place. "He's goneâ€¦" Many questions arose in his mind and for a moment he forgot everyone else was resting. "He's GONE!" Realization hit him like a kick in the gut. The kid was their only understanding of this world, and possibly their only way back to their own and he was _gone_.

ZIM was the first to respond with words instead of moans. "You just realized NOW that he was going to leave us?" ZIM looked up from his gun that he had been adjusting. A rubber ball shot out of the end of the weapon, hitting the light switch which cast away the dim glow on the walls and replaced them with a sudden unnatural brightness.

"What's happening?" The avatar's called out. Aang looked around completely confused. "Whatâ€¦ is anyone attacking?" He then rubbed the sleep out of his eyes and realized where he was. "Oh." He blushed.

"Wait a secondâ€¦ you KNEW he was going to be missing?" Zuko directed his question toward ZIM. Little sparks appeared around Zuko's hands.

"Watch the temper!" Katara put her hand over the sparks to put them out.

"And YES!" ZIM added. "I did know that! I know everything!"

"Did I not just say watch the temper?"

"Katara's right, we need to settle down. We're too loud."

"I can't believe you guys just let him treat you like that!"

"I'm serious, we need to stop talking." A whisper from the Avatar.

"I am not inclined to make you filled with JOY BEANS! When I said I would help SAVE your stupid WORLD I never said I'd be your therapist and I CERTAINLY never said I'd be your FRIEND!" ZIM was really upset. His face crinkled with lines of anger and frustration.

"Wait!" Aang put out his arms with a troubled expression. His eyes still felt heavy. "Pinkie Pie." Aang pointed to the floor and they all understood. The argument faded into dust. The poor girl was still sleeping even with all of their yelling. She moaned as she turned onto her side.

ZIM scowled. Maybe this group was just as annoying as he originally thought. They always yelled. They had such high standards. Although they did seem to praise him when he did what they wanted. But ONLY what they wanted. His hands brushed against the smooth metal of his gun. The only reason that they liked him. It had saved their sorry lives. Not him. And they praised it because that is what they wanted.

* * *

><p>"Jackâ€| Jack do you hear that?" Maddie Fenton raked her hand through lumps of squashed hair. Another night lacking quality sleep. When her husband still appeared to be asleep she said his name again. "Jack!"<p>

This time Jack Fenton snorted awake. "What is it Mads? Is there a ghost in the house?" Then he too heard the noises coming from downstairs.

"It sounds like the kids are fightingâ€|" Maddie looked at the clock. It was one in the morning.

Jack sat up and rubbed the gunk out of his eyes. "I never got up that early when I was a boy," Jack commented. "Why when I was young you were lucky to sleep as late as we do now!" He crossed his arms.

With a yawn Maddie got up and announced, "I suppose I'll go check on them." She slipped out of the soft bed sheet then walked over to her closet. The door clunked open. "You can still stay in bed Jack." She wrapped up in a bathrobe and headed out the door.

"You're great Mads," he said with a smile. With that the man laid back down, although he couldn't bring himself to sleep.

* * *

><p>The room was silent. A stare down between two powers commenced in the middle of the room. One pair of eyes glowing in the darkness and another shadowed underneath the dim lamp of the study. Danny had stopped struggling in the ropes as they had only gotten tighter from his movements. Dangling upside down was not the ideal position. Despite his state, he kept his glare to the man. Vlad had to know something.

Very calmly Danny opened his mouth. "What do you knowâ€|?" It was very matter of fact. Even so, a bitter taste rested in his mouth. Something wasn't right. _And it isn't just the smell of the candles Vlad seems to have picked out._ He wrinkled his nose. "Is that pomegranate?"

"Oh how delighted I am that you noticed." Vlad Plasmius's sarcasm was clear. He got out of the chair and walked up to Danny until they were eye to eye. A frown rested on the older half-ghost's face. "Why are you here?" It was a demanding voice.

"The kids!" Danny was no longer cool and collected. Vlad did not flinch at the sudden change of volume. "I want to know why you brought them!" The man raised his eyebrow at the teenager's false confidence. It was almost close enough to convince someone that

wasn't paying attention that he might actually be mad.

"Your fiery attitude needs a bit of work Daniel. It is still too artificial," He turned away from the teen. "You see, nobody will believe a hero who doesn't believe in himself." The teenager growled at the statement. He was getting into his head again.

"You're stalling!" Danny Phantom declared. "Answer the question or I will have to take matters into my own hands."

"I don't know what kids you are talking about." The monotonous voice did not ease the tension.

"They are from another dimension! There is no way they got here by chance! so spill it!"

"You mean those kids you invited to your home today? I am barely aware of their presence, and I did NOT bring them here." Plasmius's expression was hard. Vlad put his hand on his face, suppressing a yawn. There were dark lines under his eyes hinting to the terrible sleep he had been having.

"How do you know about them then?" Danny did not pretend to be angry anymore.

"Well let's see! I have access to advanced technology, I have the power to be invisible, I have _employees_ that can be invisible! how do you think I know?!" Vlad's patience had started to run dry with the boy.

"You spied on me?!"

"I'm not expecting you to be Sherlock but I am surprised you felt the need to ask."

"You're sick."

"I don't have time for the name game." Vlad walked over and picked up the phone on his desk. "I have bigger fish to fry."

"Tell me about the alternate dimensions! I know you know something even if you _didn't_ bring them here!"

Vlad sighed and looked up at Danny. "You want information? Don't break into someone's house when you are unprepared!" With that, he grabbed the remote that had triggered the rope and pressed another button. A camera rolled down from the ceiling with the lens aimed at Danny.

"Why is all of _this_ prepared?" Danny asked as he tried to hide his surprise. He started to struggle in the ropes again only to feel it tighten against his ribs and spine.

"If you MUST know! I knew it was only a matter of time before you poked your nose where it didn't belong, so I made sure that _I'd_ always be prepared." He finished dialing the number and put the phone up to his ear.

Vlad turned to Danny and inquired him with a hint of taunting in his voice. "How much do you think the Guys in White would pay to get

their hands on Danny Phantom?"

* * *

><p>"Discord?" Applejack followed Fluttershy into her home after her timid friend had frantically thrown open the door. Applejack's legs were a little sore from the run but nothing she couldn't shake off. Twilight and Fluttershy were out of breath from flying so fast. They had to hurry there. Discord was a talkative creature of chaos, so if he refused to move or talkâ€¦ Applejack didn't want to imagine it. Over the years her friends had shown her that simple things can mean a lot when it comes to magic. She didn't want to take that chance.<p>

Twilight filed in behind Applejack with urgency. "Oh noâ€¦!" The dead seriousness in Twilight's statement sent chills through the room. He was completely greyâ€¦a sickly color that was hard to look at. Only his eyes remained true to their original hue. The rest was colorless, seeming to pull life from the room. The expression he wore was droopy and dead and his mouth hung open. He was sprawled out on the floor with a body contorted and mashed awkwardly together. His lungs rose slowly and then dropped with a sudden, heaving breath. The abnormal breathing continued without pattern.

"This is how I found himâ€¦!" Fluttershy looked at her friend on the floor with water flooding her eyes. "I was gone for a minute tending to the garden and then I came in to find him like this. It's all my faultâ€¦ I wasn't there to help when he needed me!" She started to cry harder.

"Itâ€¦ it's not your fault," Twilight softly told her. "None of this is anyone's faultâ€¦ we've all been too quick to pin the blame." Fluttershy could not make any more words come out of her mouth, but she looked at her friend with eyes that appreciated the statement. The pegasus stepped a bit closer to the figure on the floor.

"Discord can you hear me?" Fluttershy's tiny voice whispered into the grey ear of her friend. The irises of his eyes vibrated slightly, and his breathing increased.

"Fluttershy, is there any way we can help?" Applejack asked gently. She was hesitant to approach the body especially with her friend in so much pain.

"I wish I knewâ€¦. He won't respond to anything so I went to find you, hoping you'd still be at Zecora's."

"I'm surprised you ran through the forest just to get to us." Twilight recalled how afraid Fluttershy once was of the Everfree Forest.

"When my friends are in trouble, I tell myself not to be afraidâ€¦!" Fluttershy said as she trotted into her kitchen.

"I think that's very brave." Applejack tried to keep it lighthearted, but she frowned internally. _I can't even keep myself lighthearted with all of thisâ€¦ _

"Thank you, Applejack," Fluttershy voiced as she came back out with a

damp rag on her hoof. She started to dab at Discord's head, even though she knew in her heart it was in vain. "It doesn't always work though." Her eyes had started to water again.

"He seems to be somewhat responsive, but I don't have the kind of medical knowledge this situation might requireâ€¦ I don't know what to do." Twilight breathed out with a small jolt of frustration. Could this require magic? Was Discord a victim of a new foe they would have to face?

"Whatever we do, we can't just leave him here." Applejack trotted to the other side, inspecting him for injuries. "Granny may have taught me a few things 'bout basic aches and bruises, but she ain't never mentioned anything quite like this."

"Maybe the others will have ideas," Fluttershy said, looking down. She was helpless. He couldn't be cured by any of her remedies. "Oh, this is just like Philomenaâ€¦"

"Yes, and _like_ Philomena something magic and unexpected is probably at play here." Twilight smiled at her friend as she opened the front door. "We shouldn't lose our heads." Her smile became more forced. _I am a hypocrite. I just keep messing up. Some princess I amâ€¦_ Twilight mentally beat herself for the false conclusions and mistakes she had made. With a few blinks the thoughts were forced to the back of her head. It didn't pay to down herself, even though she felt terrible about what she had done. Regret had started to seep to her mind even before the fight had been over.

"You're right Twi," Applejack narrowed her eyes. "Y'know it's almost as if someone else told you to calm down or somethingâ€¦"

"Applejackâ€¦ now is not the time to be bitter." Twilight swallowed hard as she tried to keep calm. She understood her friend's sarcasm. Twilight knew she deserved it. "And I'm sorryâ€¦ as soon as we see Zecora again I want to apologize." She hung her head low. "And I want to apologize to you."

Fluttershy looked up and smiled shyly, for a moment almost at ease seeing her two friends work something out. She then took a deep breath. "Do you think you could go get the others?" she squeaked. "I should stay here with himâ€¦"

Twilight nodded. "Sure, whatever we can do."

"We'll try our best sugar pea," Applejack replied, turning to leave.

"Twilightâ€¦" A whisper fought its way to be heard. Black ooze slurred out of Discord's mouth. The words escaped from the substance. "If chaosâ€¦" His voice rattled the room. "â€¦tip the scale."

Fluttershy's friends quickly returned to her side. "Discord, what does that mean?" Fluttershy gazed into his glossy eyes with fear shaking her hooves.

"Chaosâ€¦ will tip the scaleâ€¦" Twilight looked down in concentration.

"If Discord is master of chaosâ€¦" Applejack struggled to find her thoughts as she turned around to face her friends.

Discord coughed. "Cannotâ€¦" The voice became weaker.

"It's taking all of his strength!" Fluttershy squeaked in horror.

"He can't? Can't what?" Twilight's vision darted around the room searching desperately for an answer.

Applejack took her hat from her head and placed it over her heart in defeat as the realization set in. "He can't create chaos."

"What does that mean?" Twilight bit her lip as she approached the earth pony. It then dawned on her. "Chaos is all Discord does," she said, swallowing the lump in her throat. "And he can't do that anymore."

"Because if he does he'll tip the scale?" Fluttershy stroked Discord's mane gently. Her thinking was clouded by her emotions.

"Exactly," Twilight agreed. She started to pace. "If there is no room for anymore chaosâ€¦ the world must be close to its breaking point."

Discord's blackened mouth twisted up in some sort of smile right before he allowed his eyes to close tightly.

* * *

><p>Tired feet lugged down the steps of the Fenton household. Maddie rubbed her eyes as she reached the bottom.<p>

"Are you kids alright?" She yawned and flicked on the main light switch. The teenagers turned to face the parental figure. "Why are you up so late?"

"Weâ€¦" Aang blushed.

"We were just playing a normal earth game of truth or dare," ZIM said shoving his gun out of sight. Maddie narrowed her eyes at the green boy. "And my _dear_ friendâ€¦ Zukoâ€¦ was just getting upset about his turn! Everything's completely normal in every way and yes, I am most certainly _human_." His smile was just a little too big.

Maddie looked around the room, and not seeing her son a small jolt of panic shocked her chest. She calmed herself down almost instantly. She figured he was probably in the bathroom, or went to sleep in his room. "Do you guys know where Danny is?" His sleeping bag didn't look like anyone had ever slept in it.

Zuko looked up with an unknown expression. Maddie had to notice the scar on his face, probably work of an odd burn, or more commonly a ghost. "He was hereâ€¦" He tried to recall bits of informationâ€¦ the way the boy had seemed to vanish as if he became one with the sheetsâ€¦ he had seemed really nervousâ€¦ especially around his parents. "Maybe he went on a walk or something?"

Aang made a face. He definitely wasn't convinced with Zuko's performance. "I wonder if he wasn't sleeping well?" He tried to shrug.

The adult raised an eyebrow. If her son could fall asleep during his tests in class, why would he have trouble on the couch? "Alrightâ€|" she said suspiciously. She wasn't sure whether to believe the teenagers, but at the same time she didn't want to risk ruining Danny's friendships by accusing them. "So let me get this straight. You were all playing truth or dare, and Danny was asleep on the couch. He couldn't sleepâ€| so he got up and left to take a walk?"

Pinkie yawned and sat up. "What are we talking about?"

"We're talking about how Dannyâ€| took a walk while we were playing our gameâ€|" Katara looked at ZIM with wide eyes hoping she was getting the story right.

"Woah woah, why would he take a walkâ€| he can just flyâ€|" Her head lolled to the side with a silly smile.

"Flyâ€|?" Maddie wasn't connecting the dots.

"Yeah, y'knowâ€| he flew us out of the Spirit World?" She rubbed her eyes.

"Who are you talking about?" Maddie pushed her hair back behind her ear to hear the girl again.

"Danny Phantom." She smiled as she flopped into her sleeping bag. "Guys lookâ€|" Pinkie held her hands up. "I have thumbs! Two of them!"

Maddie's eyes narrowed and her mouth became a hard line. "Danny Phantom?" She rubbed her hands together. Was the pink-haired girl simply dreaming? It was odd that when this girl thought of the name Dannyâ€| that Phantom was the first thing she pictured. If her Danny really was their friend, wouldn't the girl have thought of him first? Maddie tried to stay nonchalant as her mind sorted through this information.

"What?" Pinkie asked with a stretch.

"Pinkie, their son Danny took a walk," Zuko said in a hushed voice.

Pinkie blinked a few times and narrowed her eyes at Maddie. "Oh. Alrightâ€|"

"So it was just a silly dream?" Maddie's smile returned as she tightened her robe.

"I guess so." Pinkie cocked her head. With a shudder and goose bumps, she slid farther down into her sleeping bag.

"Well you kids should probably try to sleep." Maddie tightened her lips together. "If Danny doesn't come back in an hour I want someone to get me so Jack and I can search for him, alright?" The tone of her

worry started to slip out in her voice. She eyed them all, and they nodded in response.

"Turn the lights off," ZIM directed at Maddie. She frowned and flicked the switch on her way out, then stiffly walked up the stairs. "I don't think we want to play our game anymore."

"Alright, we all should get back to sleeping I supposeâ€¦" Katara stared in awe at the switch that had made the room lighter and darker. She concentrated on the benefits, desperately trying to keep an open mind. She already missed Sokka, Toph, Suki, and her world. She couldn't fathom how Pinkie and ZIM must feel inside, if they would ever show their true emotions.

"Katara's right, we can't do anything now but wait." Aang sat down on the floor again.

Pinkie looked up the stairs to make sure Maddie was out of range. When she noticed the woman reach the top she spoke. "Actually we can help!" The others turned to Pinkie, somewhat listening. "We need to go save Danny."

"I think you need to be a little bit more specific," Aang commented with a crack of his back. He airbent a little gust in his face to wake himself up.

"There's a doozy happening in some old guy's house!" Pinkie shuddered again. "I think Danny must be there too!"

"Want to explain how you know that?" Katara watched the girl stand straight up with her eyes wide.

"My body twitches when there's trouble! Now you know but I can't explain anymore, so you just have to trust me, alright?" The words blurred together as the girl started to roll up her sleeping bag.

Zuko looked at the others and then back at the quirky girl. "Promise?"

"Cross my heart and hope to fly, stick a cupcake in my eye." Pinkie gave a hopeful smile.

"Then I trust you." Aang walked over and put his hand on Pinkie's shoulder. "Even though I have no idea what you just said."

Pinkie shuddered again. "We need to go fastâ€¦ there isn't much time left."

Following her lead, the assortment of people groggily sat up in their beds and dragged themselves out of their comfy positions. Pinkie led the group as they all tiptoed to the door, shushing each other and stumbling as they went. ZIM, being the last one to come out the door, shut it with precision, only allowing it to quietly creak. They then started down the street. Back in the Fenton household, the phone rang.

End
file.